JUSTICE
ACTUALITÉS REPORT

Volume 31 No. / N° 1
WINTER •• HIVER 2016

INSIDE
DANS CE NUMÉRO

EDITORIAL // ÉDITORIAL

By CCJA Past President and Criminologist
Dr. VERONA SINGER

Par la Présidente sortante de l'ACJP et Criminologue
Dre VERONA SINGER

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

VIOLENCE ENVERS LES FEMMES ET LES FILLES

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AND MORE! // ET PLUS !

CANADIAN CRIMINAL JUSTICE ASSOCIATION •• ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DE JUSTICE PÉNALE

JUSTICE
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ISSN: 0823-9436

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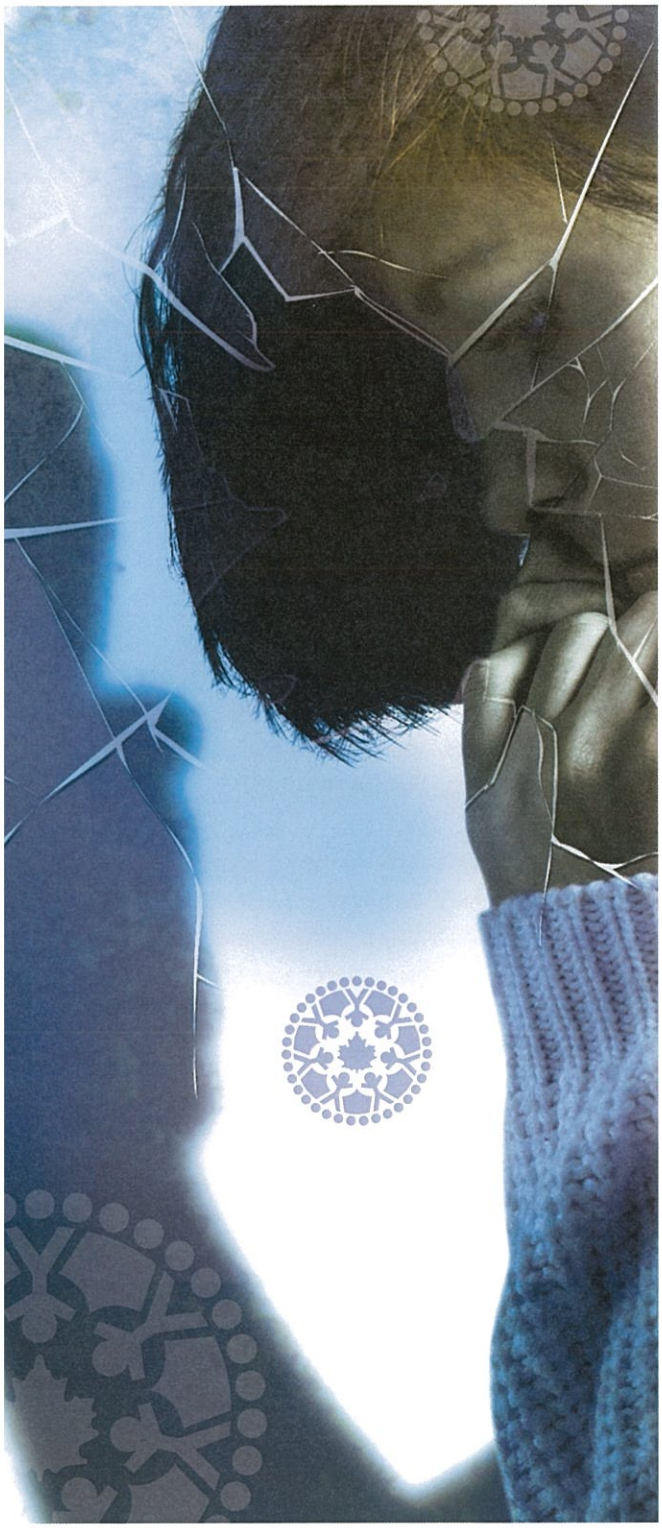

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THE CCJA CONGRATULATES
SAVERIO DE MARCO
as the recipient of a Mount Royal University scholarship, the benefits of which include CCJA membership and publication of De Marco's essay, Forensic Odontology: A Critical Analysis, in the Spring, 2016 issue of the *Justice Report*!

EDITORIAL

BY Dr. VERONA SINGER, CCJA Past President and Criminologist

March 8, 2016 is International Women's Day. This year the theme from Status of Women Canada is "Women's Empowerment Leads to Equality". That includes women's and girls' rights to live in homes and communities where they feel safe, secure and are free from violence.

According to the most recent 2014 General Social Survey, gendered violence is still a pressing issue in Canada. About 4% or 760,000 Canadians have been physically or sexually abused by their partners in the last 5 years. Many women report intimate partner violence after a break-up and that the severity of violence increases after the break-up. Women suffer the most severe types of spousal violence including being sexually assaulted, choked, beaten or threatened with a gun or knife. In addition to physical injuries, many women report experiencing psychological effects consistent with post-traumatic stress disorder. Girls between the ages of 12-17 years old are the most likely to experience sexual violence and 68% of the police-reported family violence rates involve women and girls. Indigenous women are more likely to experience intimate partner violence than non-indigenous women.

The federal government has recognized the seriousness of violence among indigenous women with the announcement of an inquiry into missing and murdered indigenous women. It is anticipated to commence in the summer of 2016. Moreover the Status of Women is starting discussions on a national action plan on violence against women. The issue of sexualized violence has also received national coverage with the recent trial of a former media broadcaster. The intense scrutiny of the victims' testimonies in court revealed how difficult a sexual assault trial can be for victims, and various questions have been raised as to whether this trial and the ensuing media coverage will deter women from reporting sexual assault to the police in the future.

In this issue of the *Justice Report*, Sarah Granke discusses the sexual violence strategy that has been developed for Nova Scotia. The strategy is in response to the Rehtaeh Parsons case, where a 17-year-old girl took her life in 2013 after a video of her sexual assault by some male classmates went viral. Julia Rustad, with the RCMP, writes on Nova Scotia's response to high risk domestic violence cases. Liz Chamberlain, registered psychotherapist in Ontario, writes on building resistance after intimate partner violence and Vicki Chartrand, professor at Bishop's University in Quebec examines structural violence in women's prisons. Also from Quebec is an article by Louise Riendeau (Regroupement des maisons pour femmes victimes de violence conjugale) regarding female victims of domestic violence and one from the Fédération des maisons d'hébergement pour femmes focusing on the fight against violence and for equality. With permission from the Assembly of First Nations, this issue also contains the full text of "A National Action Plan to End Violence Against Indigenous Women and Girls".

The prevalence of male violence against women was made visible by second-wave feminists such as Susan Brownmiller and Andrea Dworkin's work on rape, Del Martin on battered women, bell hooks on black women and Lee Maracle on indigenous women. These and other second-wave feminists raised awareness about violence against women, analyzing the problem from various feminist perspectives and strategized around solutions. Raising awareness on gendered violence continues with a new generation of feminists and their allies around the globe insisting on no more violence.••

ÉDITORIAL

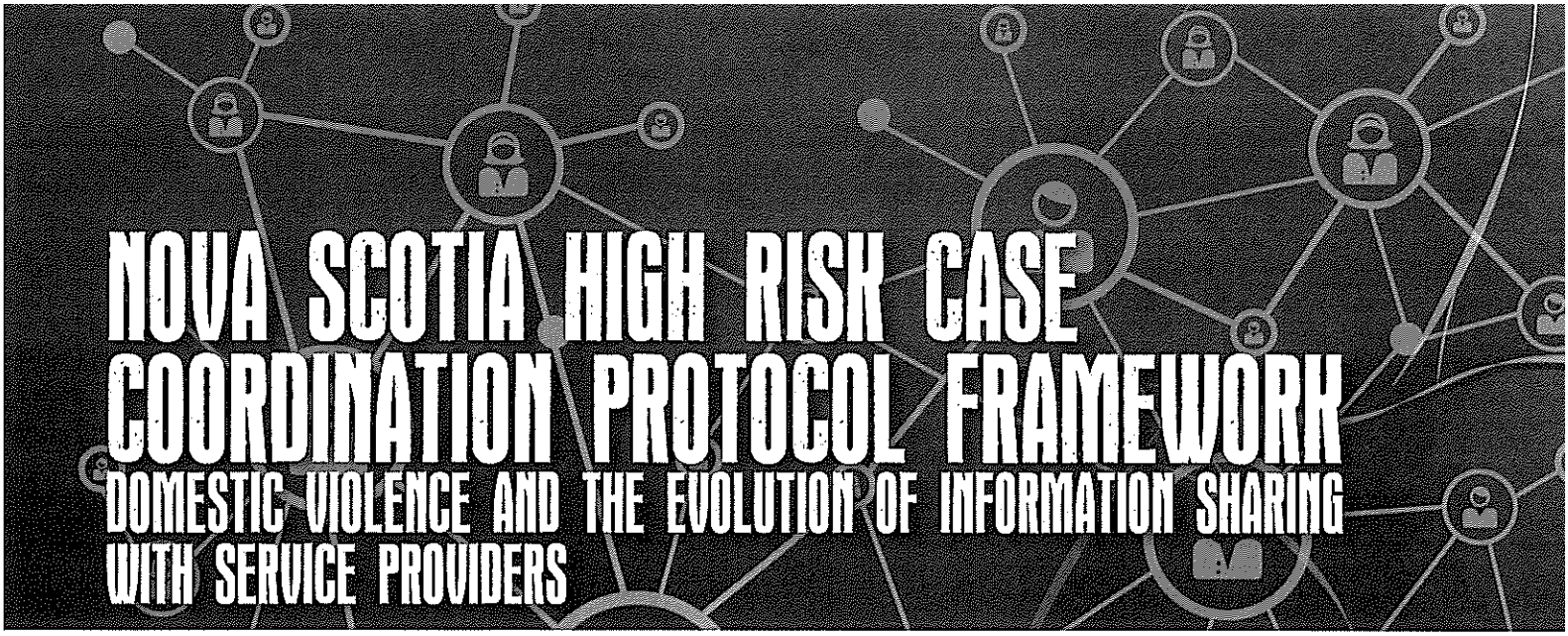
PAR Dre VERONA SINGER, Présidente sortante de l'ACJP et criminologue

Le 8 mars 2016 sera la Journée internationale de la femme. *Outillées pour l'égalité*, tel est le thème retenu par Condition féminine Canada pour cette journée. Ce thème sous-entend que les femmes et les filles ont le droit de vivre dans des foyers et des collectivités où elles se sentent en sécurité et à l'abri de la violence. *L'Enquête sociale générale* la plus récente, celle de 2014, indique que la violence sexospécifique demeure une question urgente au Canada. Quelque 760 000 Canadiens, soit environ 4 % de la population, ont été victimes d'abus physiques ou sexuels de la part de leur conjoint au cours des 5 dernières années. De nombreuses femmes rapportent avoir été victimes de violence de la part de leur conjoint à la suite d'une rupture et que l'intensité de la violence s'accroît après une rupture. Les femmes sont victimes des formes les plus graves de violence conjugale, notamment elles sont agressées sexuellement, étouffées, battues ou menacées à l'aide d'une arme à feu ou d'un couteau. Outre les blessures physiques, de nombreuses femmes rapportent être aux prises avec des effets psychologiques allant de pair avec l'état de stress post-traumatique. Les jeunes filles de 12 à 17 ans sont les plus susceptibles de subir de la violence sexuelle et 68 % des cas de violence familiale rapportés à la police impliquent des femmes et de jeunes filles. Les femmes autochtones sont plus susceptibles que les femmes non-autochtones d'être victimes de violence de la part d'un conjoint.

Le gouvernement fédéral a reconnu la gravité de la violence envers les femmes autochtones en annonçant la tenue d'une enquête sur la disparition et les meurtres de femmes autochtones. On s'attend à ce que celle-ci débute à l'été 2016. En outre, Condition féminine Canada travaille à amorcer des discussions relatives à un plan d'action national de lutte à la violence conjugale. La question de la violence sexuelle a également retenu l'attention des médias nationaux en lien avec le récent procès d'un ancien animateur radiophonique. L'examen très rigoureux des témoignages de victimes en cour a bien démontré à quel point un procès pour agression sexuelle peut s'avérer difficile pour les victimes. Aussi, de nombreuses questions ont été soulevées à savoir si ce procès et l'attention médiatique qu'il a attirée allaient décourager les femmes de rapporter une agression sexuelle à la police à l'avenir.

Dans le présent numéro d'*Actualités-Justice*, Sarah Granke traite de la stratégie de lutte à la violence sexuelle, élaborée en Nouvelle-Écosse. Cette stratégie est en réaction à l'affaire Rehtaeh Parsons, une jeune fille de 17 ans, qui s'est enlevé la vie en 2013 après qu'une vidéo de son agression sexuelle par des confrères de classe fut devenue virale. Julia Rustad de la GRC traite de la réaction de la Nouvelle-Écosse aux cas à risque élevé de violence conjugale. Liz Chamberlain, psychothérapeute inscrite en Ontario, discute des moyens de rebâtir sa résistance après avoir subi de la violence conjugale et Vicki Chartrand, professeure à l'Université Bishop au Québec se penche sur la violence structurelle dans les prisons pour femmes. Du Québec également nous proviennent un autre article de Louise Riendeau (Regroupement des maisons pour femmes victimes de violence) traitant des femmes victimes de violence conjugale ainsi qu'un article de la Fédération des maisons d'hébergement pour femmes, focalisant sur la lutte à la violence et pour l'égalité. Avec la permission de l'Assemblée des Premières Nations, ce numéro contient aussi le texte intégral du Plan d'action national pour éliminer la violence envers les femmes et les filles autochtones.

L'incidence de la violence des hommes envers les femmes est devenue plus perceptible par le truchement des travaux de féministes de deuxième vague, tels que les travaux de Susan Brownmiller et Andrea Dworkin sur le viol, de Del Martin sur les femmes battues, de Bell Hookes sur les femmes noires et de Lee Maracle, sur les femmes autochtones. Celles-ci et d'autres féministes de deuxième vague ont contribué à une sensibilisation accrue à la violence envers les femmes, en analysant le problème de différentes perspectives et en formulant des stratégies de solutions. Une nouvelle génération de féministes et leurs alliés de partout dans le monde continuent d'œuvrer en vue d'une sensibilisation accrue à la violence sexospécifique et réclament l'éradication de la violence.



NOVA SCOTIA HIGH RISK CASE COORDINATION PROTOCOL FRAMEWORK

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND THE EVOLUTION OF INFORMATION SHARING WITH SERVICE PROVIDERS

BY JULIA RUSTAD
Program Manager RCMP Victim Services 'H' Division

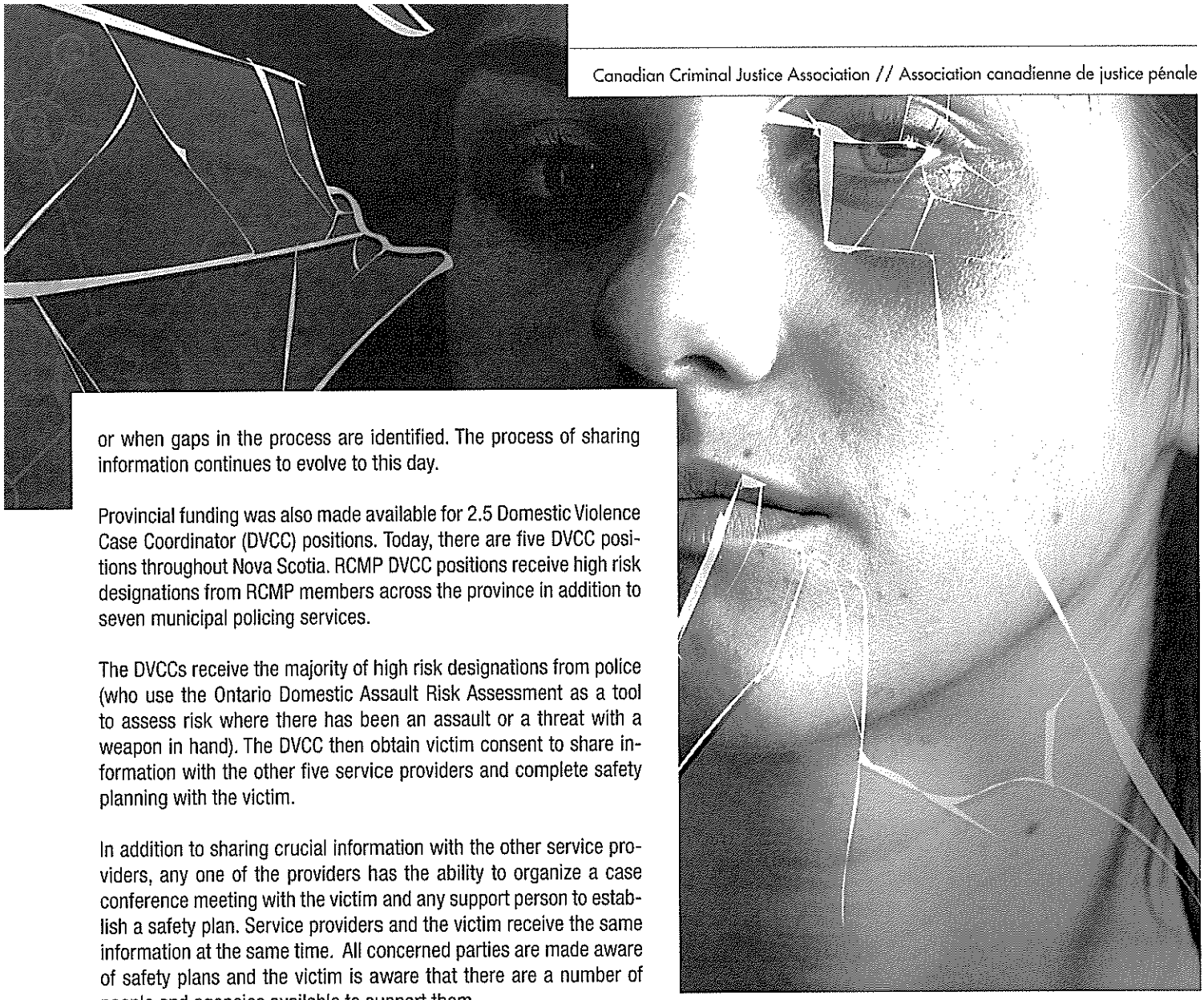
This article discusses the High Risk Case Coordination Protocol Framework in Nova Scotia which commenced in April 2003. The Framework is in place for the coordinated case management and information sharing between service providers where domestic violence files have been designated high risk by any one of those services.

In 1996, the Nova Scotia Department of Justice implemented the *Framework For Action Against Family Violence* [1], a policy that improved the justice system's response to spousal/intimate partner abuse by allowing justice agencies to adopt a pro-arrest, pro-charge, pro-prosecution policy. This policy was helping numerous victims of spousal/intimate partner abuse in Nova Scotia until a tragic case in 2000. A Nova Scotian man, husband and father of two killed his wife and then himself. The children were unharmed; however, after this incident, it became apparent that many justice and community service providers were aware of violence within the family, however, crucial information was not shared between agencies. As a result, an external review of the *Framework for Action Against Family Violence* was conducted by Dean Dawn Russell and Assistant Professor Diana Ginn of Dalhousie University Law School. The purpose of the review was to assess the current level of support for the Framework among justice workers in the community, examine how the policy was being implemented and identify any areas of improvement. The review deemed the *Framework for Action Against Family Violence* to be sound, however, it highlighted the importance of comprehensive case coordination in incidents of domestic violence. It also recognized that police needed an enhanced capacity when responding to domestic violence situations that had the potential risk for lethality. The Nova Scotia Department of Justice responded to the recommendations by introducing a legislative framework for incidents involving high risk domestic violence. In 2003, the High Risk Case Coordination Protocol Framework [2] was introduced that promoted ongoing information sharing and case coordination between agencies in situations of increased risk.

The High Risk Case Coordination Protocol Framework document was signed by the Nova Scotia Departments of Justice and Community Services. This gave service providers who would be immediately involved with high risk domestic violence situations the legislative authority to, "... disclose and share information that may be necessary to assist in protecting a person identified as being at risk." Service providers included the RCMP and municipal police, transition houses, men's intervention programs, Provincial Victim Services, Children and Family Services and Provincial Corrections/Probation. As part of the new framework, each service provider was required to increase safety and decrease risk through information sharing, case conferencing and coordinated case management.

Initially, 18 community groups across Nova Scotia were involved in protocol development. Meetings were held once a month to discuss what the process would look like when a high risk file was designated by any one of the service providers. Service providers brought their agency policies on domestic violence to the table and discussed how they could work together to share given their individual policies and legislative authorities. This presented some challenges, as some service providers worked under the Provincial Privacy Act and the RCMP worked under the Federal Privacy Act. Even though the service providers had different agency mandates, it was recognized that they each played a different role in increasing victim safety and decreasing their risk and that respecting one another's decision-making ability would be central to the protocol's success. The shared goal of increasing the safety of all parties and decreasing the risk for domestic homicide united everyone.

The completed protocol took a number of years to evolve. Today - nearly 12 years later - the local protocol groups meet once a year



or when gaps in the process are identified. The process of sharing information continues to evolve to this day.

Provincial funding was also made available for 2.5 Domestic Violence Case Coordinator (DVCC) positions. Today, there are five DVCC positions throughout Nova Scotia. RCMP DVCC positions receive high risk designations from RCMP members across the province in addition to seven municipal policing services.

The DVCCs receive the majority of high risk designations from police (who use the Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment as a tool to assess risk where there has been an assault or a threat with a weapon in hand). The DVCC then obtain victim consent to share information with the other five service providers and complete safety planning with the victim.

In addition to sharing crucial information with the other service providers, any one of the providers has the ability to organize a case conference meeting with the victim and any support person to establish a safety plan. Service providers and the victim receive the same information at the same time. All concerned parties are made aware of safety plans and the victim is aware that there are a number of people and agencies available to support them.

Another integral piece of the High Risk Case Coordination Protocol Framework is sharing information when there has been a critical development that could potentially increase the risk to the victim and their children. Critical developments could include breach of conditions by the accused, approaching court dates, Emergency Protection Orders (EPO) or the victim starting a new relationship. If a critical development occurs, the service provider who receives the information notifies the other service providers. If required, safety plans are re-evaluated and modified, and/or case conferences are planned. Throughout the information sharing process, the DVCC plays the integral role of receiving and sharing crucial information from all service providers. The entire process is managed in a coordinated manner and remains active/open until the court process is completed.

As a result of the High Risk Case Coordination Protocol Framework, collaborative partnerships and relationships have formed a foundation of respect between the service providers. Information sharing is a core piece of the recently introduced RCMP Results and Respect model and through information sharing, increased victim safety and decreased risk are demonstrated as part of an innovative approach to domestic violence. ••

RÉSUMÉ

NOVA SCOTIA HIGH RISK CASE COORDINATION PROTOCOL FRAMEWORK – DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND THE EVOLUTION OF INFORMATION SHARING WITH SERVICE PROVIDERS.

Par Julia Rustad, Directrice des programmes Services de victime de la Division 'H'

Cet article examine le de la Nouvelle-Écosse, en place depuis avril 2003. Ce cadre conceptuel vise à assurer la coordination de la gestion des cas et du partage de l'information entre les fournisseurs de services là où des cas de violence conjugale ont été désignés comme présentant un niveau de risque élevé par l'un ou l'autre de ces fournisseurs de services.

LUTTE CONTRE LES VIOLENCES, POUR L'ÉGALITÉ ENTRE LES SEXES ET POUR LA JUSTICE POUR TOUTES : MÊME COMBAT !

PAR JESSICA GOSSELIN
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Coordonnatrice communication et analyse

Les violences que vivent les femmes reçues dans les maisons d'hébergement sont un indicateur percutant de l'incapacité de notre système à leur rendre pleinement justice. De nombreux obstacles restreignent l'accessibilité à la justice pour les femmes, notamment les statuts d'immigration, les incohérences entres les différents tribunaux et le traitement de l'enjeu de garde légale des enfants. Il y a lieu d'interroger le rôle de la justice dans l'éradication des violences et la responsabilisation des agresseurs. De même, il est primordial de reconnaître les limites du système juridique, qui participe trop souvent à la revictimisation des femmes et à l'impunité des agresseurs.

Le continuum des violences que vivent les femmes reçues dans les maisons d'hébergement est un indicateur percutant de l'incapacité de notre système à leur rendre pleinement justice[1]. Nombre de violations des droits sont surtout exercées par les hommes envers les femmes : traite à des fins d'exploitation sexuelle, homicide conjugal, viol, etc. Même les problématiques associées susceptibles d'accompagner un vécu de violence : itinérance, problématique de santé mentale, toxicomanie, etc. ; ont des impacts souvent plus conséquents pour les femmes. Les enfants exposés à la violence conjugale sont des victimes à part entière[2] et doivent être considérés comme telles.

Ainsi, malgré les arguments qui tendent à symétriser la violence[3], elle demeure genrée et de nombreux obstacles restreignent l'accessibilité à la justice pour les femmes. D'ailleurs, la Déclaration pour l'élimination des violences envers les femmes[4], situe clairement les inégalités entre les sexes comme une violence et une injustice envers les femmes : « Alarmée de constater que les femmes ont du mal à s'assurer l'égalité juridique, (…), en raison notamment de la persistance et du caractère endémique de la violence[5], (…) l'exercice et la protection de tous les droits (…) doivent être garantis aux femmes, à égalité avec les hommes, dans les domaines politique, économique, social, culturel, civil et autres. **Au nombre de ces droits figurent (…) le droit à l'égalité et à une égale protection de la loi.** »[6]

Il y a lieu d'interroger le rôle de la justice dans l'éradication des violences et la responsabilisation des agresseurs. De même, il est primordial de reconnaître les limites du système juridique, qui participe trop souvent à la revictimisation des femmes.

1. Qu'elle justice pour les femmes immigrantes violentées ?

Elles sont parmi les plus vulnérables face au système de justice. Cela a été renforcé par les récents changements à la loi de l'Immigration[7]. Presque tous les titres de séjour[8] peuvent conduire à des dénis de droits importants condamnés par les conventions internationales et les chartes nationales.

Les femmes sont parfois emprisonnées dès leur arrivée, avec leurs enfants, sans qu'aucun crime n'ait été commis. Cette question administrative (liée aux papiers d'identité) peut justifier leur incarcération pendant plusieurs semaines voire plusieurs mois. Cette situation est susceptible d'engendrer des conséquences désastreuses[9]. Des alternatives devraient se substituer à la détention. S'il y a détention, il faut assurer aux femmes un accès aux ressources d'aide aux victimes (aide juridique, CALACS, IVAC, services externes des maisons d'hébergement, etc.). Les femmes au statut précaire doivent pouvoir déposer une plainte à la police sans risquer la déportation.

Bien qu'une dérogation de résidence conjointe existe en cas de violence, il demeure difficile de faire reconnaître une telle situation. Manipulations et menaces sont généralement de la partie. De plus, le parrain a souvent confisqué les papiers de sa conjointe, retardant

ainsi la reconnaissance et la sortie d'une situation de violence. Promesse de campagne du gouvernement libéral, nous appelons la fin de cette mesure.

Les réfugiées ont des besoins particuliers[10]. Une société d'accueil doit garantir des conditions optimales, notamment aux femmes fuyant les violences. Cela implique des délais suffisants pour monter la preuve nécessaire à la reconnaissance du statut. Cela implique également des délais suffisamment courts permettant de reprendre rapidement une vie normale. Cours de francisation, reconnaissance des diplômes et de l'expérience, parcours d'intégration à l'emploi, service d'aide psychologique pour celles qui en ont besoin : ces mesures doivent arriver assez rapidement afin de ne pas confiner ces personnes dans une situation d'attente intenable.

Dans les maisons de notre Fédération, 25% des femmes immigrantes reçues ne maîtrisent pas les langues officielles. Les besoins d'interprétariat se font sentir à chaque étape du parcours et les autorités devraient assurer la présence d'interprètes qualifiés.

Face à l'ensemble de ces situations, le processus judiciaire doit primer sur celui d'immigration. La femme doit pouvoir bénéficier de mesures de protection, tant pour sa sécurité que de son statut d'immigration.

2. Incohérences judiciaires

L'accessibilité à la justice est sans cesse remise en cause pour les femmes violentées. La multiplication des recours et l'incohérence des jugements susceptibles de découler d'une situation de violence sont largement décriés[11]. La fragmentation du processus judiciaire complique la compréhension des fardeaux de preuve à rencontrer dans un procès civil versus criminel. Intenter plusieurs recours concomitants demande une énergie incommensurable, et une résistance particulière face à la lourdeur bureaucratique.

Le manque d'échange entre les différents tribunaux, et entre les intervenants juridiques et non juridiques, met à risque la sécurité des victimes. Les limites procédurales de l'administration de la justice font qu'un juge ne prend connaissance que de ce qui est présenté en preuve. Il peut ainsi évacuer nombre d'éléments qui auraient pourtant dû faire partie de l'analyse, notamment en matière de sécurité pour la femme et ses enfants.

Afin de pallier à ce travail en silo des différents tribunaux et acteurs, la sensibilisation de l'ensemble des intervenants apparaît comme la clé d'une réponse juridique adaptée à la violence. En effet, les femmes violentées accueillies par nos maisons éprouvent d'importantes difficultés lorsqu'elles sont confrontées au système judiciaire, qu'elles choisissent par ailleurs souvent d'éviter. Alors que le taux de dénonciation en violence conjugale était stable (30%) depuis plusieurs années, il connait une diminution marquée de près de 10%[12]. Cette situation s'explique surtout par la méfiance des femmes envers le système de justice.

3. Meilleur intérêt de l'enfant et droits d'accès

Le principe du meilleur intérêt de l'enfant est un concept flou. La primauté et l'indétermination de ce principe permettent de justifier des positions divergentes : tant des parents qui se disputent la garde de leur enfant que des acteurs du système de justice familiale[13]. Le manque de connaissance des intervenants judiciaires quant à la violence conjugale et ses conséquences peut engendrer une mauvaise interprétation de ce principe.

Par exemple, le mouvement pour les droits des pères porte des revendications légitimes en situation « normale » de séparation. Or, le maintien des liens familiaux, le partage des responsabilités parentales et la médiation peuvent être dangereux en contexte de violence conjugale.

L'impact de la violence exercée contre la mère est parfois minimisé et il est considéré qu'un homme peut avoir un comportement violent sans que cela n'altère ses capacités parentales[15]. Dans plusieurs causes entourant la garde légale des enfants , les droits de visite non-supervisés des pères sont protégés en dépit des risques pour l'enfant[16]. La jurisprudence priorise donc la présence du père, occultant le potentiel de violence ou l'incapacité à satisfaire les besoins de l'enfant, comme facteur essentiel pour son bien[17]. D'autre part, le système judiciaire semble rapidement suspecter les mères lorsque les relations père-enfant sont conflictuelles.[18]

La loi sur le Divorce et le droit de la famille doivent reconnaître les inégalités vécues par les femmes et l'incidence de la violence sous toutes ses formes, spécialement lors des litiges entourant la question de la garde légale. Il faut d'abord s'entendre sur la sexospécificité de la violence[19]. Il faut également des mesures de protection des femmes et des enfants en contexte de violence conjugale[20], telles que : la reconnaissance de l'impact de la violence sur les questions de garde légale ; la prise en considération de la sécurité des victimes ; la nécessité d'une présomption voulant que les agresseurs ne puissent obtenir la garde complète ou partagée ; l'imposition aux agresseurs d'un programme de counseling ou de traitement comme condition à l'obtention du droit de visite ou de la garde ; un recours restreint à la médiation dans un contexte de violence. Finalement, il serait utile de prévenir l'utilisation du système judiciaire par le conjoint violent à des fins d'harcèlement.

4. Conclusion

Ainsi, le système judiciaire tarde à accomplir ses visées pourtant fondamentales : répondre aux besoins des femmes violentées et responsabiliser les agresseurs. Les pages précédentes ont permis de dresser plusieurs constats : qu'il s'agisse du fardeau indu émanant de lois qui n'ont pas été élaborées dans une perspective genrée et qui, se faisant, produisent des effets particulièrement pernicieux sur des femmes ; ou des difficultés d'ordres administratif, communicationnel et relatif à l'interprétation de concepts juridiques.

Quoiqu'il en soit, la reconnaissance d'un droit est susceptible de conduire à l'octroi d'une protection, en plus de situer le débat sur dans l'espace public. La politique en matière de violence conjugale du gouvernement du Québec[21], et les plans d'action qui y sont associés, portent un message clair : la violence est vécue majoritairement par les femmes et résulte d'un rapport de pouvoir qui prend racine dans les inégalités entre les femmes et les hommes. Il ne s'agit pas d'une perte de contrôle, mais constitue, au contraire, un moyen choisi pour dominer l'autre personne.

Partant, des outils soutenant une meilleure intégration d'une analyse genrée, tels que l'analyse différenciée entre les sexes (ADS), sont une voie d'avenir pour assurer une réelle progression égalitaire au sein de l'appareil juridique et étatique. À quand une loi contraignant la réalisation d'analyses différenciée entre les sexes lors de l'élaboration, de la mise en œuvre et de l'évaluation de toutes lois, projets ou initiatives étatiques, et ce, afin de garantir une vie digne, juste et sans violence pour toutes les femmes ? ••

1. Les répercussions de la seule violence conjugale génèrent des frais faramineux d'environ 220 $ par habitant par année au Canada, dans Ministère de la Justice du Canada, 2009. Une estimation de l'incidence économique de la violence conjugale au Canada: http://www.justice.gc.ca/fra/pr-rp/jp-cp/vf-fv/rr12_7/rr12_7.pdf
2. Lapierre et Côté, 2011; Paradis, L'enfant, une éponge, 2012.
3. Statistiques Canada, 2014.
4. ONU. 1994. Déclaration pour l'élimination des violences envers les femmes.
5. Idem, Préambule.
6. ONU. 1994. Déclaration pour l'élimination des violences envers les femmes, article 3.
7. Décembre 2013.
8. Pour une analyse plus complète, voir FMHF. 2014. Violence conjugale et familiale : les statuts d'immigration. http://fede.qc.ca/publications/violence-conjugale-familiale-statuts-dimmigration
9. Des problématiques de santé mentale, de stress post traumatique, mais aussi des problèmes physiques qui ne sont pas soignés à temps.
10. Nous nous réjouissons d'ailleurs de l'annonce du gouvernement libéral de rembourser les soins de santé pour cette population souvent traumatisée par des années de guerre.
11. Voir notamment Epstein, 1999 ; Dalley, 2013 ; Turpel-Laford, 2000 ; Babb, 97-98 ; Hester et al., 2008 ; Schwartz, 2004 ; Dewar, 2010 ; Nicholson & Harrisson, 2003-2004
12. Statistique Canada, 2014. Victimisation auto déclarée, ESG.
13. Fogarty et Augoustinos, 2008 ; Kaganas et Day Sclater, 2004 ; Leduc, 2000 ; Godbout, 2014.
14. Keenan, 1985; Pagelow, 1993; Hart, 1990.
15. Rosnes, 1997.
16. Au nom du principe de l'article 16.(10) de la loi sur le Divorce qui préconise un maximum de contact entre parents et enfants.
17. Smart et Neale, 1999.
18. Godbout, 2014, page 179.
19. Comité spécial mixte, 1998. Pour l'amour des enfants. Ce rapport porte une vision familialiste de la violence.
20. Condition féminine Canada, 1998. La violence entre conjoints associée aux différends relatifs à la garde des enfants et au droit d'accès : recommandations. Ce rapport progressiste fait état de 24 recommandations qu'il serait urgent de mettre en œuvre.
21. Gouvernement du Québec, 1995. Prévenir, dépister et contrer la violence conjugale.

FÉDÉRATION DES MAISONS D'HÉBERGEMENT POUR FEMMES

À PROPOS DE LA FÉDÉRATION (FMHF)

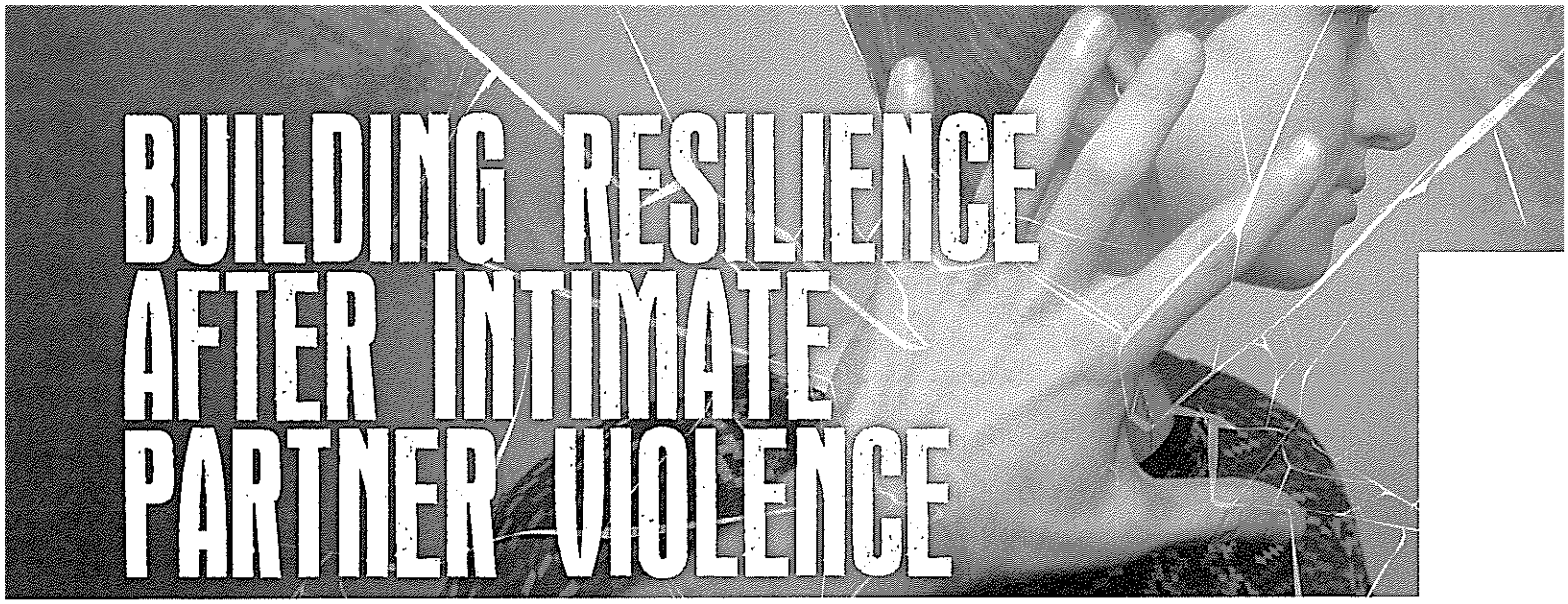
La Fédération des maisons d'hébergement pour femmes (FMHF, fede.qc.ca) est membre du Réseau canadien des maisons d'hébergement pour femmes (RCMHF, endvaw.ca/fr/). Elle s'est donné comme mandat de défendre les droits des femmes violentées vivant de multiples problématiques sociales, et de leurs enfants. Elle réalise des activités de recherche, représentation, concertation, sensibilisation, etc. Elle regroupe, soutient et représente plus de 30 maisons d'hébergement dans 11 régions du Québec qui accueillent chaque année près de 3 000 femmes et leurs 1 500 enfants.

Sept aspects communs se dégagent des mandats des maisons : offrir le gîte 24 heures sur 24, 7 jours sur 7, offrir des services de soutien externes, des services de post-hébergement,être un lieu d'appartenance pour les femmes, soutenir les femmes dans leurs diverses démarches, soutenir les enfants des femmes et, enfin, offrir des activités de prévention, de promotion et de sensibilisation.

ABSTRACT

LUTTE CONTRE LES VIOLENCES, POUR L'ÉGALITÉ ENTRE LES SEXES ET POUR LA JUSTICE POUR TOUTES : MÊME COMBAT !
By Manon Monastesse, directrice, Jessica Gosselin, coordonnatrice liaison aux membres et formation

The violence suffered by women entering our shelters is a striking indicator of our system's inability to fully ensure justice for them. Many obstacles limit women's accessibility to justice, notably their immigration status, the lack of coherence between various courts, and how the matter of the legal custody of children is handled. We need to examine what role justice plays in the eradication of violence and in getting offenders to accept responsibility for their actions. As well, it is crucial that we recognize the limits of the judicial system that, in too many cases, contributes to revictimizing women and ensuring impunity for offenders.



BUILDING RESILIENCE AFTER INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

BY LIZ CHAMBERLAIN
MACP, Registered Psychotherapist, CPRO- 004027

Liz discusses the support needed by victims to properly deal with the life-altering impact of trauma resulting from intimate-partner violence and also to get through the court process. To this end, Chamberlain discusses three modalities used during therapy that can enable women to move from victims to survivors and on through to resilience. Helpful Hearing involves listening without interruption to help bring to light critically relevant information for the court process while building resilience in the victim. Reaffirming and Reorganizing involves the two-pronged approach of (1) reminding the victim that her story has been heard and validating that she is stronger than she may feel for having survived the trauma, and (2) working with the victim to reorganize the pieces of her story to identify her healing goals. Finally, Building Up and Building Out consists of summarizing the victim's abuse and helping reframe her trauma to help work through complex emotions: once the victim has a sense of being built up, she begins the building-out phase, during which she strengthens her sense of resiliency and is able to articulate her growth.

Jane heard herself speak barely above a whisper...

Walking towards her car Jane heard her breath stop and her heart beat louder. "It can't be! I'm not ready for this!" she thought. Jane felt a lump resting heavily in her throat. With a warm summer breeze drifting towards her, he was now standing right in front of her. "Hi Jane, I know I am not supposed to be talking to you, but I just wanted to let you know how sorry I am and how great you look." John said smiling. "Thanks," Jane heard herself speak barely above a whisper."I really should go." "Oh no, please," pleaded John, "for old time's sake, come to my place for a coffee?" Jane froze as if her entire body was betraying her. "Why?" she choked out. Feeling confident that the charming snare was working, he closed the deal, "because I have changed since then, thanks to you, and I have moved on. I just want to make you one last coffee before we part ways for good."

Jane felt the hairs on the back of her neck stand tall...

Jane felt terrified as she pulled up in front of John's apartment. With a sinking feeling, she realized she was sitting beside the same man that not two-months ago she had managed to free herself from! Gently placing her coffee cup on the counter, Jane put her summer jacket on, and thanked John as she started to climb the stairs to leave. Jane felt the hairs on the back of her neck stand tall when she heard, "you're not going anywhere bitch!" Swiftly and with brute strength, Jane felt herself being pulled back by her hair down the stairs into John's kitchen. John's arm forcefully yanked her jacket off. Jane felt his large hands easily engulfing her neck as she gasped for what seemed to be her last breath! With eyes bulging, her head pounding, and her face feeling flushed and swollen, he let go. Sitting on the floor beside Jane coughing and attempting to regain her breath, John said, "I am so sorry, it's just that I love you. I told you that if I couldn't have you, then nobody else would either."

The best sex you ever had...

Not knowing the time, Jane lay ever so quietly until the wee-hours of the morning. She needed to be certain that John was deeply asleep before she could attempt her second and likely, final escape. Like a snake travelling through summer's long grasses, Jane slivered out of his bed. Never looking back until she took her first breath in the crisp night air, Jane cried uncontrollably as she walked away from John's apartment. It was only after John was arrested, that Jane could even think about the life threatening attack and the violent rape; an act that he referred to as "the best sex you ever had."

THERAPEUTIC HEALING THAT STRENGTHENS RESILIENCY

The story of Jane and John is not uncommon. With five years of experience counseling abusive men who had violently harmed their female partners, and the past four years with adult/adolescent women who have been assaulted, I have found three modalities most helpful in enabling women to move from being victims of intimate-partner violence to being survivors and on through to resilience. Resilience is the ability to overcome and positively move forward with one's life. "Mental health counselors and other helping professionals must attend to the ways in which trauma survivors exhibit and build strengths that help them recover and possibly grow from their traumatic experiences" (1:289). This is essential for women to go through the justice system and to get back to their normal lives.

HELPFUL HEARING

When I was a child, I was told that we have two ears and one mouth. We should listen twice as much as we talk. When a client first comes to me, I listen. Listening to everything the woman has to share about her experience of violence, irrespective of chronological order by date(s), time of day(s), specific day(s) of the week, year(s), or decade(s), without interruption is *Helpful Hearing.* Commonly, trauma survivors have symptoms such as decreased concentration, numbing, little or no memories, and acute stress responses (2). They may have experienced dissociations during the traumatic event(s) and memories may be scattered (3). I refrain from asking for clarification... I just listen. In doing so, I am fully present, maintaining client focus, and free to offer only supportive body language and quiet affirmations. In most cases, the woman has spoken to police officers, lawyers, health professionals, close relatives, friends, or colleagues. But often this is the first time she has shared everything she wants and needs to share without interruption.

This simple process helps to establish respect, trust, and connection, which are important factors for what is referred to as the 'therapeutic alliance'. As she recalls them, the woman's stories help me collect critically relevant information that I might not have obtained had she been intermittently interrupted for clarification or inadvertently redirected. She can start to experience hearing her own story. Listening to her own voice and recognizing her story as valid no matter how it comes out. Jane knew that she should not go with John. Listening to herself describe this thought starts the process of her self-efficacy and of trusting her "messengers of intuition" (4). Resiliency starts with listening to herself. Knowing her story is valid and credible no matter how disorganized her thoughts may be or the outcome of the court process is vital.

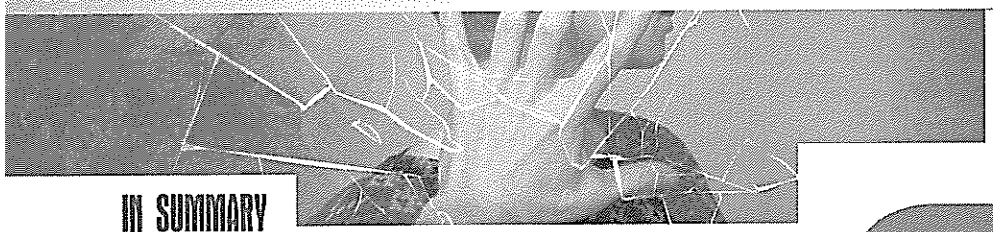
REAFFIRMING AND REORGANIZING

The second modality I have found helpful is *Reaffirming and Reorganizing.* This involves a two-pronged approach. I start by reminding the client that I have heard her story. I validate that she is stronger and wiser than she may feel for surviving such trauma. Countless women in Canada and around the world do not survive. This of course must be felt and delivered in a truly authentic and humble way, acknowledging the strengths that she has described in her story. "You told John that you wanted to go" - Assertiveness. "You could feel your heart beating faster as he was coming close" - Self-awareness. "You knew that you needed to wait until he was asleep" - Ability to solve problems. Often women feel "stupid" or that they "let it happen". Research has shown that "feeling "really stupid" is something that is difficult to measure but it can drain self-confidence in a debilitating way" (5:11). Identifying strengths helps the client start to "safely remember the trauma, rather than continue to re-live it" (2:19). Regaining self-confidence is essential to resiliency.

We then work together to reorganize the pieces of her story so she can identify her healing goals. That is, the short term goals she wishes to address to help her come to terms with the trauma and prepare for the court system and longer range goals that will activate her future thinking and planning. Recognizing that many women have "limitations to cognitive functioning, such as short term memory loss and difficulty processing information," (5:11) after experiencing a trauma, this time is crucial to help women organize their experience. Women often say that they "feel crazy" with sporadic thoughts flying around their head. By mapping out their story using tools such as chronological timelines, women are able to think things through with the support needed. New evidence is quite often uncovered in this process. I introduce mindfulness skills during these sessions to help build a foundation for women to feel present and solid in 'today'.

BUILDING UP AND BUILDING OUT

The third modality summarizes the client's abuse and helps her reframe her trauma by challenging and changing her heavy thinking and heavy emotions into a lighter sense of self, lighter thinking, and lighter feelings that are on the 'opposite side of the coin' (5). In doing so, clients learn how to work through complex emotions such as feelings of shame ("I can't believe I went with him") to being proud of their accomplishments ("I got out and I called the police right away"), from feelings of sadness and depression ("I'm such a loser and I will never be able to date again") to excitement and joy ("One day I will have a healthy relationship"), or, from feelings of anxiousness ("the world is a scary place") to feelings of inner-calm and peacefulness ("scary things do happen but I know I can get through"). She can learn to 'build up' through self-nurturance constructed from the inside-out. Once she has a sense of being 'built up', she is ready to commence her 'building out' phase. The 'building out' phase is when the client will strengthen her sense of resiliency and be able to articulate this growth. She is ready to embrace the tremendous pain she has experienced and reframe it into a stronger ability to live with uncertainty while maintaining positive goals for her future.



IN SUMMARY

The women I see who have experienced trauma often need 2-3 years of therapy, some longer. Some, who have previous histories of violence, realize that they need help working on childhood traumas along with coping through the current court process. But as the court system moves forward, women continue to need support and information "at the time of the offence, at sentencing, during the term of the sentence (probation, custody, conditional sentence if applicable), and afterwards for civil enforcement" (5:13). Advocacy efforts need to continue to ensure that counseling funding flows smoothly to victims throughout this time.

I have been in private practice for five years. I work primarily using CBT, client-focused, mindfulness, and Native teachings. I was a child victim of violence, I am a survivor, I have experienced many wonderful relationships and I attempt to live 'in today' and walk through it with grace. I continue to work hard at being trauma informed.••

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to *Justice Report* Editor, Nancy Wright:

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and keep your eye out for the Notices/Feedback section in future issues!

VEUILLEZ ADRESSER TOUT COMMENTAIRE RELATIF À CET ARTICLE

à l'éditrice de l'*Actualité-Justice*, Nancy Wright :

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Demeurez à l'affût de la section Avis/commentaires dans les numéros à venir.

RÉSUMÉ

BUILDING RESILIENCE AFTER INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE
Par Liz Chamberlain, Psychothérapeute inscrite auprès de l'Ordre des psychothérapeutes, , CPRO- 00402

Liz Chamberlain traite de l'appui dont ont besoin les victimes pour composer convenablement avec les effets dévastateurs de traumatismes découlant de la violence vécue dans le cadre de relations intimes, de même que pour franchir le processus judiciaire. À cette fin, elle aborde trois modalités utilisées en thérapie et pouvant permettre aux femmes de passer du statut de victime à celui de survivante ainsi que de progresser vers la résilience. *Helpful hearing* [écoute aidante] implique d'écouter sans interruption afin d'aider à mettre en lumière certaines informations cruciales au processus judiciaire, tout en contribuant à renforcer la résilience chez la victime. *Reaffirming and Reorganizing* [réaffirmer et réorganiser] implique une approche en deux temps : (1) rappeler à la victime que son histoire a été entendue et lui rappeler qu'elle est plus forte qu'elle ne peut le croire du fait qu'elle a survécu au traumatisme et (2) aider la victime à réorganiser les éléments de son récit pour en dégager ses buts de guérison. Enfin, *Building Up and Building Out* [bâtir et renforcer] vise à aider la victime à faire le point sur la maltraitance qu'elle a subie et à recadrer son traumatisme dans le but de composer avec des émotions complexes : après que la victime aura le sentiment d'avoir été rebâtie, elle entreprendra la phase de renforcement au cours de laquelle elle renforcera son sentiment de résilience et sera en mesure d'articuler sa croissance.

Counselling & Therapy* with Liz

Office location in Oshawa and in-home/on-site therapy available.

*This page is reprinted with permission from the Chamberlain and Associates website: chamberlainandassociates.ca

Liz is Bear Clan of Algonquin/French descent from the Antoine First Nation, descendants of the historic Matawasi bi ani cena`bi (Mouth-of-the-River People). Her Native name is Kiwedin-nimbi-kwe (Northern Thunder Woman).

Liz has spent her life promoting mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual well-being. She has her Master's in Counselling Psychology (MACP) and is a certified mediator. She is a member of the Ontario Association of Consultants, Counsellors, Psychotherapists, and Psychometrists (OACCPP). Liz has worked in private practice for the past four years and with various social service organizations for over 30 years.

While working for the Ministry of Children and Youth, Liz won two public service awards: One for Improving Government/Stakeholder Relations and one for Outstanding Leadership. She was also awarded a commendation for excellence in advocacy at the University of Windsor where she worked as the Director of Aboriginal Education. In 2000, she was awarded the Pride Windsor Woman of the Year. Her Native Elders honored her with an Eagle Feather in 1998 for leadership and one in 1990 for promoting healing.

> *"We are not defined by our grave errors... humans are complex and have many elements of self that are to be celebrated, as we work to heal our darker aspects. Everyone deserves an opportunity to get back on their feet so they can do or be something great!"* Liz

> *"Everyday we have the opportunity to refashion ourselves into the person we aspire to become."* Native Teaching

Believing in how the cross-cultural experience enriches us all, she took time out to travel and live in Africa for a period of eighteen months. Liz gives credit to all walks of life for shaping her character, providing her with personal strength, motivation and responsibility. She has come to realize that the needs of individuals are few, namely, to be seen, heard, believed, to know that they are trusted and held in good faith, to be allowed to take their place and to know that their existence is beneficial. It is at the centre of these values that Liz engages her community. She is known for her motivational style, her compassionate spirit, her ability to unpack problems that seem overwhelming... She is the proud mother of three boys, two who were adopted from foster care.

Liz Chamberlain's Justice-Related Services

chamberlainandassociates.ca

- Involvement with the criminal justice system (victims/survivors and offenders)
- Sexual abuse/assault
- Intimate partner violence
- Human trafficking
- Assault
- Homicide

Please consult website for other areas of specialization.

BREAKING THE SILENCE: A COORDINATED RESPONSE TO SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN NOVA SCOTIA

BY SARAH GRANKE
MSW, Specialist, Sexual Violence Prevention and Supports
Department of Community Services

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: As a community-based advocate, sexual health educator, counsellor and researcher, Sarah Granke has worked for a decade at the grass roots level to champion the health, well-being and safety of communities. Sarah's commitment to social justice has included developing and expanding the youth program at Manitoba's LGBTQ resource centre; bringing together over 400 young women from across the country to explore and take action on complex issues; providing non-judgmental, inclusive sexual health education to youth; and as a sexual assault counsellor, supporting survivors on their healing journey. Sarah recently completed a Master of Social Work Degree at Wilfrid Laurier University with a clinical focus on trauma recovery and sexual violence, complementing her undergraduate education in Women's and Gender Studies.

Sarah Granke reports on an important strategy against sexual violence in Nova Scotia, where the number of reported sexual assaults is higher than the national average. Sarah stresses that youth aged 15-24 are among those at greater risk of sexual victimization and that a radical shift in culture requires seeding generational change. She also highlights the importance of intersectionality, noting that upwards of 90% of reported sexual assaults occur against women and girls and that Indigenous women and girls are three times more likely to be sexually victimized than non-Indigenous women. The Government of Nova Scotia committed $6 million in 2014 over three years towards the creation and implementation of the sexual violence strategy for the province. Implementation began in June, 2015 with a focus on community engagement, ensuring that supports are varied and accessible, and that relevant policy and processes are being inventorized for change.

The number of reported sexual assaults in the province of Nova Scotia remains higher than the national average. In the year 2014 alone, 591 sexual assaults were reported to police (Statistics Canada 2015 b); the majority of research in this area indicates that this statistic captures a mere 10% of all sexual assaults (Perreault & Brennan 2010). Upwards of 90% of reported sexual assaults occur against women and girls (Benoit et al. 2015), meaning that a disproportionate number of women in our province are suffering from the impacts and trauma of sexualized violence. While there have been a number of publicized cases of sexualized violence in Nova Scotia, innumerable other crimes go unheard. Central to the issue of under reporting are the survivors' concerns—and often their reality—of being discredited, blamed, shamed, and subsequently re-traumatized. A culture of silence pervades the issue of sexualized violence. A comprehensive response to this ongoing crisis is long overdue. The Government of Nova Scotia is now in the midst of implementing a province-wide strategy: *Breaking the Silence: A coordinated response to sexual violence in Nova Scotia.*

NOVA SCOTIA'S FIRST SEXUAL VIOLENCE STRATEGY

3 Key Principles...

In 2014 the Government of Nova Scotia committed $6 million over three years towards the creation and implementation of a sexual violence strategy. The first year saw extensive conversations with service providers, stakeholders, survivors and youth as well as an online public survey. Three key principles emerged from this process and continue to guide the work:

The strategy is about people. The interests of victims and survivors and others impacted by sexual violence need to be at the core of our work. The needs and experiences of marginalized and vulnerable groups must be taken into account. Our work must be inclusive, culturally competent, and trauma informed.

We have to work together with a unified voice. An approach to preventing sexual violence must promote conditions in which meaningful cooperation between citizens, communities, and governments can occur to make the best use of resources and expertise.

We can do it. We can prevent sexual violence from occurring in our communities. We can break the silence and stigma that make too many Nova Scotians feel they are alone in dealing with this problem. (SVS 2015: 4).

Complex problems, such as sexualized violence, are not necessarily hard to understand, but they are multi layered with many interlocking variables, necessitating multifaceted approaches. Education alone will not solve the problem, nor will a stand alone public awareness campaign.

3 key action areas, woven together by community engagement

As such, the strategy is multipronged with three key action areas woven together by community engagement.

These action areas are: - **(1)** Supports and Services – **(2)** Education and Prevention and – **(3)** Approach and Accountability. Community engagement" means planning and working with community to begin widespread change based on common goals. This approach recognizes that both community and government have essential resources, roles, and responsibilities that are needed to develop a successful coordinated response to this complex issue" (SVS 2015: 4). Community engagement is not just consultation but rather it is about shared leadership and responsibility, recognizing that not one person, group, or government can solve sexualized violence. We need one another to effectively address this problem.

Community Support Networks

In the fall of 2015, community gatherings were held in 9 regions of the province bringing together over 200 stakeholders. The purpose of these gatherings was to expand asset maps of community-based services and formulate together how to coordinate counseling and support services, increase visibility of services, provide navigation support and foster safer, non-judgmental spaces. Each of the 9 regions was allocated a portion of funding to do this work, with an additional amount specifically dedicated to access needs such as transportation, child care or language interpretation. These 2-day, interactive gatherings provided a space for a diverse range of service providers to collaboratively develop visions and action plans, and to determine how to best use these funds locally. The following seven criteria identified by the Tamarack Institute are instrumental to the work of community engagement and are principles employed throughout this process:

- A broad range of people are participating and are engaged.
- People are trying to solve complex issues.
- The engagement process creates vision, achieves results, creates movement and/or change.
- Different sectors are included in the process.
- There is a focus on collaboration and social inclusion.
- The community determines local priorities.
- There is a balance between community engagement processes and creating action.

If every door is to be the right door, which means that survivors of sexualized violence have choice in the types of supports they access, we need to ensure a diversity and multiplicity of voices, perspectives and tactics at the table.

Youth

The 2014 General Social Survey (Statistics Canada 2015 a) reports that people between the ages of 15-24 are at greater risk of being sexually victimized. Knowing this, it is critical that any strategy must focus prevention and support efforts on youth. This must be done *with* young people, not for them. In the first year of the Nova Scotia Strategy, over 100 youth participated in 14 sessions that engaged young people in conversations about sexual violence. One of the key things we heard was that youth want to be in leadership roles and many already are. We need to work with young people to ensure that both services and prevention efforts are done in ways that make sense for them. As such, we continue to engage youth throughout the strategy, especially in the creation of a public awareness media campaign and new prevention initiatives. Youth aren't just our leaders of the future – they are our leaders now. A radical shift in culture requires seeding generational change. That must start today.

The intersectionality of oppression: A 'one size fits all approach' will not do

Violence against women, including sexualized violence, must be examined with an intersectional approach as not all people are "equally likely to be victims of sexual assault" (Benoit et al. 2015). Experiences of violence differ and are compounded when other forms of oppression are involved including racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, colonialism, ableism and classism (Benoit et al. 2015; Sokoloff & Dupont 2005; Crenshaw 1989). As the strategy rolls out, intersectionality is a crucial element being considered within each action area. A "one size fits all" approach to this issue will only cause further harm. Part of recognizing the intersectionality of oppression is providing space and resources for marginalized communities to take the lead on their own prevention and support efforts. For example, Indigenous women and girls are 3 times more likely to be sexually victimized than non-indigenous women (NSACSW 2012). This staggering reality, combined with racism, sexism, intergenerational trauma, the impacts of residential schools and ongoing colonization amplifies Indigenous women's experiences of sexualized violence (Benoit et al., 2015). A response to sexual violence against Indigenous women and in Indigenous communities cannot be imposed from the outside. It must be generated and led by Indigenous community members who know the realities far too well, and who also hold the solutions. Accordingly, the strategy will co-host a gathering this spring in collaboration with various First Nations groups to share knowledge and strategies for prevention. It will also provide a space to build collaborative and compassionate service responses for victims with specific focus on the experiences of First Nations communities. This engagement and support must and will continue. Not just with First Nations communities, but with all marginalized communities, including African Nova Scotians and the LGBTQ* community in Nova Scotia.

So, where are we?

The Nova Scotia Sexual Violence Strategy went into the implementation phase in June 2015 and has seen significant momentum since. The staff of two existing phone lines have been trained in trauma-informed practice specific to sexualized violence. These lines are not designed to provide counseling services, but are critical to ensuring 24/7 support for victims. A compassionate, trauma-informed response to a disclosure can have a tremendously positive impact on the healing journey of a survivor (Rubin 2008).

Reducing re-traumatization and secondary wounding of survivors is also a key outcome of the strategy. Training will continue and extend to other phone lines in the province. Government has committed to expanding the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner program with new sites in Sydney and the western area of the province. In addition to these aspects of Services and Supports, the province has invested $1.25 million into Community Support Networks, which, as previously discussed, are developing local service responses. Since July of 2015, two provincial committees have been meeting. These committees are made up of community and government partners and helping in the creation of a provincial public awareness media campaign, as well as foundational training materials on sexualized violence that can be utilized across sectors.

The Prevention and Innovation Fund is an integral component of Education and Prevention. This grant was launched in November 2015 and recently closed with approximately 100 diverse applications from all regions of the province. These one-year grants are divided into two streams, up to $5,000 & up to $50,000 with a total of $600,000 per year for 2 years. These grants will "support community-based prevention initiatives, expand best practices, better research & evaluation, and better use of technology; assist youth groups to reach out to peers in innovative ways; and support marginalized populations including African Nova Scotians, First Nations, and the LGBTQ community" (SVS 2015: 8).

The projects will focus on primary prevention and work towards outcomes such as better understandings of consent and healthy relationships, a decrease in the hypersexualization of women and girls, an increase in positive, non-violent expressions of masculinity and an increase in involvement of men and boys in prevention efforts. The recipients of these exciting new grants will be announced in early March. As previously stated, education and public awareness alone are not enough to create change; they must be supported by good public policy and legislation. The last action area, Approach and Accountability, is about ensuring the implementation of actions and engagement activities, as well as aligning policies and processes to support prevention and support services. In January the Inter-Departmental Committee on Sexualized Violence held its inaugural meeting where representatives from Justice, Health and Wellness, Community Services, Education and Early Childhood Development, Labour and Advanced Education and the NS Advisory Council on the Status of Women all reiterated their Department's commitment to this important and complex issue. The committee has since begun to inventory relevant provincial policies and processes that align with sexual violence response and prevention, with a goal to realign polices to improve government coordination.

Those working in the area of violence against women often hear comments like, "I don't know how you do that every day." It certainly can be difficult, and many service providers and advocates experience burnout and/or vicarious trauma. Less talked about however, is vicarious resiliency and post-traumatic growth, both of which are extremely profound. As we work to shift enormous cultural change, we may get tired, we may get frustrated, and we may get mad. And we will also find strength and hope in community uniting to support survivors and prevent sexualized violence from happening in the first place. Complex issues aren't resolved overnight - they take time. But together, we can do this.••

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RÉSUMÉ

BREAKING THE SILENCE: A COORDINATED RESPONSE TO SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN NOVA SCOTIA

Par Sarah Granke, Spécialiste, de la prévention et du soutien en matière de violence sexuelle Ministère des Services communautaires

Sarah Granke traite d'une importante stratégie destinée à contrer la violence sexuelle en Nouvelle-Écosse où le nombre d'agressions sexuelles déclarées est supérieur à la moyenne nationale. Sarah souligne que les jeunes de 15 et 24 ans sont les plus à risque d'être victimes d'un délit sexuel et que, pour parvenir à un changement radical de culture, il faudrait amorcer un changement générationnel. Elle met aussi l'accent sur l'importance de l'intersectionnalité, soulignant au passage qu'au-delà de 90 % des agressions sexuelles déclarées sont commises contre des femmes et des jeunes filles et que les femmes et les jeunes filles autochtones sont trois fois plus susceptibles d'être victimes d'un crime sexuel que les femmes non-autochtones. Le gouvernement de la Nouvelle-Écosse a engagé 6 millions de dollars sur trois ans en 2014 pour élaborer et mettre en œuvre une stratégie visant à contrer la violence sexuelle dans la province. La mise en œuvre a débuté en juin 2015, elle était centrée sur l'engagement de la collectivité et tentait d'assurer que la gamme de mécanismes de soutien était variée et accessibles, et qu'un inventaire des politiques et processus pertinent était dressé en vue d'un changement.

UN RÉEL ACCÈS À LA JUSTICE EST-IL POSSIBLE POUR LES FEMMES VICTIMES DE VIOLENCE CONJUGALE ?

PAR LOUISE RIENDEAU

Coordonnatrice des dossiers politiques

Regroupement des maisons pour femmes victimes de violence conjugale

Les infractions commises en contexte conjugal doivent être traitées comme tout autre crime contre la personne. Or, bien que le nombre d'infractions enregistrées ait augmenté de façon continue, on constate que ces crimes commis au sein d'un couple demeurent sous-dénoncés. Certaines pratiques et procédures judiciaires auraient-elles pour effet de décourager les femmes victimes de violence conjugale à porter plainte? Est-il alors illusoire de penser que ces victimes pourront obtenir justice? Le Regroupement des maisons pour femmes victimes de violence conjugale croit que la chose est possible, pour peu que l'on donne des moyens aux services policiers et au système judiciaire de jouer pleinement leur rôle.

Certains se surprendront de cette question. Depuis la Politique d'intervention en matière de violence conjugale de 1986, les services policiers et les procureurs aux poursuites criminelles et pénales ont été sommés de traiter les infractions commises en contexte conjugal comme tout autre crime contre la personne. Ainsi, en 1987, première année où de telles statistiques étaient tenues au Québec, on enregistrait 6 559 infractions[1] commises en contexte conjugal. En 2013, toujours selon les données policières, 18 885 personnes ont été victimes de crimes contre la personne dans ce contexte. Dans près de 80 % des cas, la victime était une femme[2]. On le constate, le nombre d'infractions enregistrées a augmenté de façon continue au cours des vingt-cinq dernières années. Quand on regarde le profil des victimes, on observe que plusieurs sont des jeunes femmes. Cette tendance se vérifie aussi dans les maisons d'aide et d'hébergement où les femmes s'adressent beaucoup plus rapidement que par le passé. En effet, dans les années 80, les femmes pouvaient demeurer une dizaine d'années avec un conjoint violent avant de demander de l'aide. En 2014-2015, en comparaison, 70,5 % des femmes hébergées dans les maisons membres du Regroupement des maisons pour femmes victimes de violence conjugale y sont venues après une durée d'union de 1 à 5 ans. Plus de 20 % étaient avec leur conjoint depuis moins d'un an. Les femmes font davantage confiance aux services policiers, elles savent aussi qu'elles peuvent obtenir de l'aide.

Pourtant, les crimes contre la personne commis au sein d'un couple demeurent sous-dénoncés. Selon Statistique Canada, seulement 22 % des crimes perpétrés en contexte conjugal auraient été portés à la connaissance des autorités policières en 2013[3]. Deux ans plus tôt, la même enquête indiquait un taux de dévoilement de 30 %[4].

Parallèlement, un certain nombre de femmes qui rapportent les agressions qu'elles ont vécues aux services policiers ne sont pas toujours entendues. En effet, les intervenantes des organismes spécialisées en violence conjugale entendent souvent des femmes raconter le manque de réceptivité de certains policiers à qui elles se sont adressées. Ainsi, certains policiers vont jusqu'à conseiller aux victimes de demander une ordonnance de garder la paix plutôt que d'enregistrer leur plainte et de faire enquête lorsqu'elles font face à des menaces ou à des situations de harcèlement criminel. Des victimes observent cette même attitude des policiers lorsqu'elles rapportent des manquements à des ordonnances ou à des conditions de remise en liberté. Il n'est pas rare qu'elles se fassent dire de noter les événements et de les rapporter quand leur nombre sera assez élevé.

Ces faits ne sont pas seulement des anecdotes. Une recherche récente menée à Ottawa dans le cadre d'une initiative du service de police d'Ottawa (SPO) pour améliorer ses interventions face au crime de violence contre les femmes a montré que des mises en accusation avaient été déposées dans 56 % des cas d'infractions criminelles, alors que 29 % avaient été jugées irrecevables. « La moitié des menaces ont été jugées irrecevables et seulement un quart d'entre

elles ont mené à des accusations. Un tiers des manquements aux ordonnances du tribunal (notamment des ordonnances de probation et de protection) ont mené à des accusations»[5]. L'absence d'accusation constitue un motif important d'insatisfaction pour les victimes qui ont participé à cette recherche. Certaines femmes ont rapporté s'être senties abaissées, blâmées pour la violence subie ou encore laissées sans protection. « Beaucoup de femmes ont dit qu'elles ne signaleraient pas une expérience similaire au SPO à l'avenir, ce qui révèle une perte de confiance dans la police et une éventuelle hausse de la vulnérabilité de ces femmes»[6].

Même lorsque les victimes sont entendues et qu'une accusation est déposée, elles ne sont pas toujours au bout de leur peine. En janvier, une journaliste de *La Presse* rapportait que les délais pour obtenir un procès criminel pouvaient aller jusqu'à deux ou trois ans[7]. On parle souvent des délais déraisonnables pour les accusés, mais qu'en est-il pour les victimes? Peut-on penser qu'il est juste et équitable qu'une femme victime de violence conjugale ait à attendre de long mois avant que la cause soit entendue? Pendant ce temps, elle risque de subir les pressions de son entourage ou celles de son agresseur. Elle doit aussi garder en mémoire les détails de son agression pour pouvoir en témoigner. Pendant ce temps enfin, elle vit dans l'incertitude et dans la crainte du traitement qui lui sera réservé en cour. Tentera-t-on de la mettre en contradiction, de la discréditer? Sa vie intime sera-t-elle dévoilée en public?, etc. Bref, il peut être bien difficile pour les victimes de tourner la page et de refaire leur vie, tant que l'étape du procès n'est pas derrière elles.

Témoigner à quelques mètres du conjoint qui a exercé son contrôle, sa domination et sa violence pendant plusieurs années n'est pas non plus facile. Si certaines souhaitent le confronter, plusieurs craignent ce face-à-face. Et bien que des aides aux témoignages existent (témoignage en circuit fermé, paravent, huis clos), le système de justice hésite encore à les utiliser dans les cas de victimes adultes.

Le sous-financement du système de justice pose aussi problème. Si le manque de greffiers, de juges ou de salles allonge les délais[8], la charge de travail des procureurs aux poursuites criminelles et pénales les empêche souvent de rencontrer les victimes à l'avance pour préparer leur témoignage et leur expliquer comment se passeront l'interrogatoire et le contre-interrogatoire. C'est d'autant plus insécurisant que la plupart des victimes, tout comme la majorité des justiciables, ne connaissent pas le fonctionnement et les règles du système de justice.

Les victimes, tout comme les intervenantes et intervenants qui les accompagnent, sont souvent déçues de l'issue du procès, même lorsque l'agresseur a été reconnu coupable. Elles ont souvent le sentiment que la peine est insuffisamment sévère et que les droits des accusés pèsent plus lourd dans la balance que les souffrances qu'elles ont subies. Les politiques récentes en matière de peines maximales et le discours de droite qui a eu cours ces dernières années alimentent à coup sûr le cynisme. Toutefois, ce sentiment d'injustice repose sur des faits réels. On parle rarement, voire quasiment jamais, d'une seule agression lorsqu'il est question de violence conjugale.

D'ailleurs, la *Politique d'intervention en matière de violence conjugale* (1995) définissait ainsi la violence conjugale :

> « La violence conjugale se caractérise par une série d'actes répétitifs [...] La violence conjugale comprend les agressions psychologiques, verbales, physiques et sexuelles ainsi que les actes de domination sur le plan économique. Elle ne résulte pas d'une perte de contrôle, mais constitue, au contraire, un moyen choisi pour dominer l'autre personne et affirmer son pouvoir sur elle.»[9]

Par conséquent, avant de faire appel à la police et de porter plainte, une victime aura subi les agressions de son partenaire pendant plusieurs années. Un jour, un événement provoquera l'appel à la police et si une accusation est portée, c'est pour cet événement que l'accusé sera jugé. Parfois, des procureurs plus perspicaces demanderont aux policiers de vérifier s'il n'y a pas matière à porter plusieurs accusations et si des preuves suffisantes peuvent être obtenues pour les soutenir. Mais ce n'est pas la situation générale. Dans quelques cas, grâce à la collaboration d'autres intervenants, notamment celle des intervenantes des maisons d'hébergement, le procureur sera informé de l'historique de violence. Il pourra en tenir compte au moment d'exiger des mesures de remise en liberté qui protégeront mieux la femme et aussi au moment de faire ses recommandations sur sentence. Il pourrait même demander que l'agent de liaison du service de probation fasse une évaluation de la situation. Mais, une telle façon de travailler relève davantage de l'exception que de la norme. Ici encore, les ressources et le temps manquent.

Est-il illusoire de penser que les femmes victimes de violence conjugale pourront obtenir justice? Non, notre Regroupement croit toujours en l'importance de soutenir les femmes violentées pour qu'elles puissent avoir des recours. Au plan social, la peine imposée à un contrevenant a des fonctions de dénonciation, de dissuasion et de neutralisation. Une société qui se targue de ne plus tolérer la violence envers les femmes doit pouvoir donner les moyens à son système de justice de jouer son rôle.

Et la chose est possible, pour peu qu'on ait la volonté politique de le faire. L'exemple du K Court, un tribunal spécialisé à Toronto peut nous inspirer. Des policiers et des procureurs spécialisés y sont affectés. Les premiers ont pour mandat de collecter systématiquement les preuves : « La version de la victime est recueillie sur-le-champ ou dans les 24 heures suivant l'incident, et des photographies des blessures sont prises, s'il y a lieu. Ces preuves peuvent être utilisées à la cour même si la victime refuse de témoigner.»[10] Les victimes y reçoivent également un soutien du début à la fin du processus et on vise à faire reconnaître aux accusés la responsabilité de leurs actes.

Une étude menée sur ce tribunal[11] rapportée par Dugal et Gauthier (2015) a révélé que : « 37 % des victimes ont coopéré avec la poursuite, que 81 % des accusés poursuivis ont été condamnés, et qu'une sentence de prison a été imposée à 31 % de ceux-ci. Lorsque la victime coopère, il y a sept fois plus de probabilités que l'accusation mène à une condamnation. Les caractéristiques du délit, y compris son degré de gravité n'influencent pas les probabilités d'une condamnation. La

probabilité que la victime coopère se trouve quant à elle influencée par la présence d'une vidéo et par les services du PAVT[12]. »

En effet, l'aide apportée aux victimes peut faire une grande différence. Notre Regroupement entreprend d'ailleurs une tournée de formation auprès de ses membres pour aider les intervenantes à mieux soutenir les femmes et à les encourager à voir le système de justice comme levier de reprise de pouvoir sur leur vie. Car au-delà de la sentence qui sera imposée à l'issue du procès, le sentiment d'être crue par les intervenants judiciaires, d'être entendues peut donner aux femmes un sentiment de justice et leur montrer que la société désapprouve les gestes de violence de leur agresseur. Comme le rapporte Holly Johnson : « La recherche a montré que, chez beaucoup de femmes qui signalent des crimes violents à la police, le droit de la procédure — le principe qui prévoit que les parties soient traitées de manière juste et respectueuse — est aussi important que l'issue de l'affaire (Spohn, Tellis et O'Neal, 2015) »[13]. Une femme interrogée dans ce cadre en témoigne: « L'officier s'est assis et m'a gentiment parlé de la violence et m'a fait savoir que cela n'était pas normal et que je n'étais pas tenue de vivre ainsi. Grâce à lui, j'ai repris ma vie en main.[14]»

Mais pour y arriver les services policiers et le système judiciaire doivent faire de la protection des victimes une priorité, ils doivent examiner leur pratique de façon à que ces dernières soient informées, soutenues, comprises. La formation continue et les ressources nécessaires sont indispensables pour que ces systèmes tiennent leurs promesses et soient enfin dignes de confiance.••

ABSTRACT

UN RÉEL ACCÈS À LA JUSTICE EST-IL POSSIBLE POUR LES FEMMES VICTIMES DE VIOLENCE CONJUGALE?
By Louise Riendeau,
Coordonnatrice des dossiers politiques
Regroupement des maisons pour femmes victimes de violence conjugale

Domestic offences should be treated as any other crime against the person. However, although the number of recorded offenses has increased steadily, it is clear that crimes committed within a couple are under-reported. Is it possible that certain judicial practices and procedures discourage such female victims from filing a complaint? Is it unrealistic to think that justice can be served to such victims? The *Regroupement des maisons pour femmes victimes de violence conjugale* (maisons-femmes.qc.ca) believes that justice can be served, provided that judges, the police and the legal system have the means to play their part in full.

NOTES BIOGRAPHIQUES de Louise Riendeau

Diplômée en criminologie à l'Université de Montréal, Louise Riendeau a travaillé au début des années 80 en maison d'hébergement pour femmes victimes de violence conjugale. Pendant une dizaine d'années, elle a ensuite été active au sein de divers organismes communautaires (défense des droits des prestataires d'assurance-chômage, garderie, consommation et budget).

Depuis 1992, elle travaille au *Regroupement des maisons pour femmes victimes de violence conjugale*, d'abord comme coordonnatrice, et depuis quinze ans comme responsable des dossiers politiques et juridiques qui touchent les conditions de vie des femmes victimes de violence conjugale et de leurs enfants.

À ce titre, elle a représenté son organisme au *Comité conseil du Comité interministériel de coordination en matière de violence conjugale, sexuelle et familiale*. Elle a participé activement aux travaux du *Comité tripartite femmes et Justice* et du *Groupe de travail sur les services offerts aux femmes victimes de violence conjugale et à leurs enfants* piloté par le Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux. Elle est actuellement membre du comité de coordination du Carrefour Sécurité en violence conjugale dont l'objectif est de favoriser la collaboration de plusieurs partenaires communautaires et institutionnels pour améliorer la sécurité des victimes de violence conjugale.

Louise Riendeau a été membre du conseil d'administration de la Ligue des droits et libertés jusqu'à tout récemment, où elle a siégé aussi au comité sur les droits économiques et sociaux de cet organisme.

Elle est membre du conseil d'administration du Réseau canadien des maisons d'hébergement pour femmes.

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STRUCTURAL VIOLENCE IN CANADA'S PRISONS FOR WOMEN

BY VICKI CHARTRAND
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This article explores how structural forms of violence experienced by women in Canadian prisons are created by the institutional logic, language and routine practices found within the prison. This is illustrated in the article through the practices such as strip searching, the use of segregation and the impacts for Indigenous women in prison. The routine practices of security and order normalize or justify a violence in prisons that would otherwise be considered illegal. The article concludes that we need to rethink the prison and punishment as practices of justice.

INTRODUCTION

According to the Office of the Correctional Investigator (OCI: 2013a), across prisons in Canada injuries and assaults are on the rise, the use of segregation is becoming more common and forced interventions are increasing. Exceptional searches, lockdowns and staff refusals to work on health or safety grounds also remain high. The OCI (2013b; 2014) has further shown that since 2005, the rate of incarceration for women has increased by 66% and 112% for Indigenous women and since 2008 the rates of self-injury have tripled. There is also an over-reliance on control measures and an increased likelihood that women will receive institutional charges. Yet, in stark contrast to this is the commonly recognized reality that women in prison pose less of a security concern, are more often imprisoned for crimes of survival than violence that are linked to poverty, substance use, mental health, abuse and sexual violence. Despite this, for many women, prison creates or reproduces experiences of violence and trauma. There is a significant gap in the literature and our understanding of this contradiction and the issue of women in prison and how the institution itself structures and conditions violent practices that are largely ignored or trivialized.

PRISON VIOLENCE IS OFTEN MADE INVISIBLE THROUGH A REGULATORY RUBRIC THAT MAKES IT APPEAR NORMAL OR NECESSARY

Part of the problem when explaining prison violence is that we tend to think of violence as interpersonal, as something that happens between people. In reducing our understanding of violence to individuals, we lose sight of how systems and processes can structure a framework of violence. This is also known as structural violence where the institutional logic, language and routine practices come together in such a way to create or heighten the conditions for violence to occur. The Prison for Women (P4W) incident, whereby on April 22, 1994 an all-male Emergency Response team was called into the prison to subdue eight women sleeping in segregation cells, is a prime case example of structural violence. Through prison policy, guards illegally and forcibly strip-searched, shackled and left the women naked for 12 hours on concrete in solitary confinement (Arbour, 1994). Prison violence is often made invisible through a regulatory rubric that makes it appear normal or necessary, when the same response would be considered violence under any other circumstances. Structural violence can be reflected in the "language and routine practices of high risk designations, higher classifications, involuntary and forced transfers, deportation, strip-searches, segregation, suicide watch, dry cells, transfers to men's prisons, excessive force, lack of medical attention and the denial of support or services; practices that are often experienced in violent ways and

can culminate into self-harm, suicide, and death" (Chartrand, 2015: 19). The violent character and results of such treatment of women calls into question the use, necessity and relevance of prisons as a means of exacting justice.

WE ARE NOT AWARE OF THE RATE AND EXTENT OF WHICH WOMEN EXPERIENCE VIOLENCE IN PRISON WITH THE VAST MAJORITY THAT GO UNREPORTED OR UNDOCUMENTED

Where the OCI has documented the increasing trends of violence in prison, it does not capture the vast majority of violence that goes unreported or undocumented. Petey, a formerly incarcerated woman at a youth detention centre and the Grand Valley Institution for Women and currently a student attending law school notes that, "most women expect this type of treatment". As a result, we do not know about the rate and extent to which women experience violence in prison with the vast majority going unreported or undocumented, particularly when it is administered against individuals who are perceived as somehow more deserving of it. Petey therefore objects to using the title of offender. "Calling someone an offender does not say that you committed a crime once. It perpetuates the idea that you are always offending and somehow deserve the bad treatment you receive". To make penal violence more visible, an understanding of violence must go beyond simple definitions to see how it is exercised or justified through everyday protocols, routines and language of the prison and its power to punish. Although acts associated with the power to punish might not be considered or characterized as violent in official reports or even under the rule of law, they are nonetheless experienced in violent ways.

MANY WOMEN IN PRISON EXPERIENCE STRIP AND CAVITY SEARCHES AS A FORM OF SEXUAL ASSAULT, AND YET SUCH ACTS ARE A NORMAL AND ROUTINE ASPECT OF WOMEN'S IMPRISONMENT

Former prisoner and lawyer Debbie Kilroy describes how many women in prison experience strip and cavity searches as a form of sexual assault, and yet such acts are a normal and routine aspect of women's imprisonment. This practice is even more questionable given the low security concern that women represent and when less invasive measures could be used. It is difficult to deny that strip searches are experienced as anything other than violent, especially given incarcerated women's personal histories of abuse and sexual violence, and that strip searches are invested in authoritarianism, power imbalances, forced compliance and the restriction of movement. The Canadian correctional service is supposed to promote a just, peaceful and safe society through safe and humane custody. The prison, however, does not parallel everyday society and women do not experience the prison in 'normal' ways. Petey highlights how "women are placed in an environment that is foreign to them and that is structured in a way that does not make sense, that is not fair and certainly not rational. The experience often enrages you and makes you feel helpless, until eventually you react". Women might respond to the prison environment with anger, substance use, self-harm or even dissociation – all of the types of behaviours that can result in institutional charges, forced interventions and/or segregation.

ASHLEY WAS ON SUICIDE WATCH AT THE TIME OF HER DEATH AND PRIOR TO THIS HAD BEEN ON MANY OCCASIONS ILLEGALLY TRANSFERRED, FORCIBLY INJECTED, TASERED, AND DUCT TAPED

From Petey's experience, "segregation tends to be the number one response to what they call security risks, which includes a risk of self-harming or suicide. But the people that I met in prison who were self-harming, such as slashing, banging their heads on the wall or any kind of physical harm to their own bodies never did this before they came to jail. It is a combination of feeling helpless, angry and other feelings that you experience as a result of the system". This was evident in the Coroner's Inquest into the death of Ashley Smith where in October 2007, prison staff watched on for 30 minutes as Ashley – a 19-year-old held at the Grand Valley Institution in Kitchener, Ontario – tied a ligature around her neck and self-asphyxiated in her segregation cell. Ashley was on suicide watch at the time of her death and prior to this had been on many occasions illegally transferred, forcibly injected, tasered, and duct taped. It was also revealed that Ashley accumulated charges that increased her sentence from 18 months to two years, mostly as a result of her resistance to her confinement such as by uttering threats, resisting staff, grabbing a break away lanyard and spitting in a guard's mouth (Chartrand, 2015: 10). The routine practices of security and order normalize or justify a violence that would otherwise be considered illegal in any other normal context. In its institutional functions, the prison personnel operate to prioritize security, compliance and the good order of the institution and this results in targeting those who fail, refuse or cannot manage, cope or adapt.

"INDIGENOUS WOMEN ARE OFTEN CONSIDERED MORE RESISTANT TO CORRECTIONAL REGIME AND INSTRUCTION AND SUBSEQUENTLY EXPERIENCE HIGH RATES OF VIOLENCE WHILE IN PRISON."

Adjusting to or accepting the prison environment is even harder for women who are disadvantaged or for whom resistance has become a way of survival. This is evident with Indigenous women who are not only more likely to be incarcerated but are exposed to longer periods of imprisonment, given higher classifications and dangerous offender designations and more often committed to segregation. Indigenous women are often considered more resistant to correctional regime and instruction and subsequently experience high rates of violence

while in prison. For example, women must demonstrate institutionally approved behaviours so acts such as "swearing, insubordination, challenging authority, refusal to work, failure to obey guards' instructions and, most significantly, malicious allegations against guards are each examples of 'offensive' and 'offending' behaviour" (Moore & Scraton, 2014: 15). As women find ways to cope, adapt, challenge, resist, counter or reshape their experience, they tend to be managed through coercion, forced intervention or segregation.

Women for the most part are not going into the penal system with violent backgrounds, self-harming behaviour or suicidal ideation. It is clear that while certain events within the prison that may not be defined as violent, they are nonetheless experienced by women in violent ways. Women for the most part are not going into the penal system with violent backgrounds, self-harming behaviour or suicidal ideation. As Petey asks, "the fact that women are either characterized as or become violent while in prison raises the question of what is really going on?" There remains a significant need to explore the prevalence of violence for women in prison and how the institution itself structures and conditions violent practices that are largely ignored or trivialized. The need for individual accountability remains important, yet we also need to consider how we maintain our reliance on a system that not only conceals violence, but also routinely produces it. The question then is not a matter of better accountability, better prison policies or better systems, but to consider other mechanisms of justice completely outside of the prison.••

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PLEASE SEND ANY REMARKS, OR A COMMENTARY, REGARDING THIS ARTICLE

to *Justice Report* Editor, Nancy Wright:

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and keep your eye out for the Notices/Feedback section in future issues!

VEUILLEZ ADRESSER TOUT COMMENTAIRE RELATIF À CET ARTICLE

à l'éditrice de l'*Actualité-Justice*, Nancy Wright :

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Demeurez à l'affût de la section Avis/commentaires dans les numéros à venir.

RÉSUMÉ

STRUCTURAL VIOLENCE IN CANADA'S PRISONS FOR WOMEN
Par Vicki Chartrand, Bishop's University
et l'ex-détenue, actuellement étudiante en droit

Cet article examine comment certaines formes structurelles de la violence vécue par des femmes dans les prisons canadiennes découlent de la logique institutionnelle, du langage et des pratiques routinières au sein des établissements. Selon cet article, des pratiques telles que les fouilles à nu, le recours à l'isolement et leurs incidences sur les femmes autochtones en prisonconstituent autant d'illustration de ce fait. Les pratiques routinières liées à la sécurité et l'ordre contribuent à normaliser ou à justifier la violence dans les prisons, des pratiques qui pourraient autrement être considérées comme illégales. L'article conclut qu'il nous faut repenser la prison et le châtiment comme moyens d'assurer la justice.

The CCJA wishes to thank the Assembly of First Nations (www.afn.ca) for their permission to reprint this document available on their website at www.afn.ca

A NATIONAL ACTION PLAN TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS

BY THE ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

BACKGROUND

There is an immediate and pressing need to seek justice for Indigenous women and girls in Canada and ensure that they have the same opportunities to fully enjoy their rights, regardless of where they reside. The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) is well aware of the unacceptable levels of violence against Indigenous women and girls and is committed to action. An effective strategy must include full commitment and participation from all levels of government including First Nations, civil society and both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. Our actions must be able to ensure justice for women and girls who are or have been victims of violence, make changes to laws and policies that allow these problems to persist, ensure the availability of adequate support services and generate a fundamental societal shift that will no longer allow epidemic levels of violence against Indigenous women and girls to continue.

The AFN is the national political organization representing First Nation citizens in Canada. This includes more than 800,000 citizens living in 633 First Nation communities, as well as remote, rural and urban areas. The AFN is an advocacy organization for First Nations which advances First Nation priorities and objectives as mandated by the Chiefs-in-Assembly.

Through resolution and the direction of First Nations, the AFN has been mandated to address the critical situation of violence, disappearance, and murder of countless First Nations women and girls.

At the 2012 Annual General Assembly, over 1,800 Chiefs and First Nations citizens made a pledge to "live violence free and to personally work to achieve safety and security for all Indigenous peoples – women and men, girls and boys." This pledge has also been taken by thousands of Canadians and is available on the AFN's website www.afn.ca. At the 2012 Council of the Federation, Premiers took up this pledge as a reminder in their professional and personal lives of their responsibility to ensure the safety of Indigenous women and girls.

The pledge is a clear recognition that ending violence and ensuring the safety and security of all citizens – particularly those most vulnerable – is everyone's responsibility.

CONTEXT

Indigenous women and girls are five times more likely to experience violence than any other population in Canada. The numbers of missing and murdered Indigenous women are staggering and increasing every year. It is through the efforts of the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) that a picture has emerged of the magnitude of this problem. Based on their concerted research, NWAC estimates that roughly 600 Indigenous women and girls in Canada have gone missing or have been murdered over the last two decades. The majority of these cases remain unsolved. Community based workers estimate that these numbers are up to four times higher.

Through their research, NWAC sought to create greater awareness of violence against First Nations women, as well as broaden the conversation and research from a focus on domestic and family related violence to examine broader, societal forces. "The initial research question of the initiative boldly challenged the context in which violence impacts Aboriginal women in that it asked specifically: What are the circumstances, root causes and trends leading to racialized, sexualized violence against Aboriginal women in Canada?"[1]

A number of historical, socio-economic and legal realities have come together to generate the conditions that allow violence against Indigenous women and girls to persist.

Indigenous women have always held leadership roles within their respective families and societies. Their participation was central to the safety and security of their families and community members. Women in some pre-contact traditional societies, such as the Haudenosaunee, had the power to appoint and remove the Chiefs. Indigenous governance systems had established processes to deal with violence in a way that continued to support families and the community. However, these traditional systems have been eroded over time due to the imposition of foreign governance and justice systems, federal government interference, legislation and policies – reaching far back to the development of Canada and continuing to today. Key among these is displacement of Indigenous peoples and dispossession of our lands, breaking up families by targeting children through the Indian Residential Schools and the broken child welfare system and the discrimination, assimilation and enfranchisement of Indigenous women through registration provisions of the *Indian Act*.

As a result, Indigenous women and girls have been pushed to the margins more so than non-Indigenous counterparts, especially within urban settings. For Indigenous women, violence is not only seen in the context of victimization but it is also part of a cycle that is perpetuated by their overrepresentation in criminal justice and correctional systems. The 2012 Public Safety Canada report, *Marginalized: The Aboriginal Women's experience in Federal Corrections*, and the March 2013 report of the Office of the Correctional Investigator, *Spirit Matters: Aboriginal People and the Corrections and* Conditional *Release Act*, underscore these facts. While Aboriginal people account for just four per cent of the Canadian population, one in three females in the federal correctional system is Aboriginal. In addition, over the last 10 years, the representation of Aboriginal women in the prison system has increased by nearly 90 per cent, making them the fastest-growing offender group.

For many Indigenous women, involvement in the criminal justice system is the result of a complex set of collective and individual life circumstances marked with violence and poverty. Consequently, upon entering federal correctional institutions, many Aboriginal women present with a range of programming needs including culturally appropriate and gender appropriate programming regarding life skills; parenting skills; education; employment; alcohol and substance abuse; anger management; and spiritual programming. In addition, a number of Indigenous women may present with a need for mental health care and treatment.

The high rates of First Nation children in state care (8 times that of non-First Nation children) and chronic underfunding of First Nation child welfare services introduces additional vulnerabilities to violence. In addition, women and girls often face economic and educational disadvantages which make them vulnerable to violence. Compounding these indignities is the widespread silence of mainstream Canadian society and media on violence against Indigenous women and girls.

All of these factors have worked together to develop a societal narrative that allows violence against Indigenous women to persist. Just one example is the perception that women working in the sex trade are leading "high risk lifestyles" and are therefore less likely to garner police and media attention. Consequently, the violence that they experience has become normalized and, in some cases, almost expected.

The safety and well-being of Indigenous women and girls is integral to ensuring healthy and prosperous Indigenous families, communities and nations. Clearly, the factors that have led to the current rates of violence against Indigenous women and girls are complex and intersecting. Therefore, our responses must be similarly comprehensive and far-reaching.

A NATIONAL PUBLIC COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

The AFN, NWAC, First Nations, Indigenous women's organizations and families of murdered and missing Indigenous women have been long advocating for a Royal Commission or National Public Inquiry on Violence Against Indigenous Women and Girls, including the circumstances around those that have been murdered or are missing.

An independent National Public Commission of Inquiry on Violence Against Indigenous Women and Girls must focus on developing action plans to address violence and the factors that lead to it, inclusive and reflective of the perspectives of Indigenous women, First Nation, Inuit and Métis communities, and the families of missing and murdered women.

Such a Commission could:

- Ensure an open and transparent examination of socio-economic, political and historical factors and their current manifestation within the child welfare, justice and corrections systems that lead to increased vulnerability;
- Examine police practices and protocols with regards to investigations in incidences where Indigenous women are reported missing, communications with families and among and between jurisdictions;
- Examine and build on the substantial – and often unimplemented – recommendations made in previous commissions, inquiries, reports and task forces (such as the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, Manitoba Justice Inquiry, National Aboriginal Women's Summits, etc.) with a focus on identifying critical barriers to their implementation and strategies to overcome these;
- Examine experiences, supports and strategies in urban centres;
- Provide special focus on the North and the unique perspectives and experiences of Northern First Nations and Inuit communities;
- Review innovative practices and community-based supports in preventing violence and achieving reconciliation; and,
- Increase public awareness and understanding of the impacts and underlying causes of violence.

Support for a National Public Commission of Inquiry has been growing and social justice organizations, church groups and international human rights bodies have lent their voices to this call. In April 2013, Ministers of Aboriginal Affairs also agreed to call upon the federal government to initiate a National Public Inquiry.

A National Public Commission of Inquiry is critical for accountability and to create change. However, without a strong and actionable national strategy and plan for implementation, change will continue to be delayed. In order to compel concerted actions and efforts, a National Action Plan is urgently required.

EFFORTS TO DEVELOP A NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

The best and most successful efforts to prevent and end violence against Indigenous women and girls are grounded in communities, are inclusive of the voices of women and Elders, and respect the jurisdiction of First Nation governments. Communities are best able to coordinate, support and mobilize the appropriate people, including leadership, frontline workers, volunteers, families, youth, service providers and external supports to create safer homes and environments.

In February 2012, the AFN convened a National Justice Forum to bring together First Nation leadership, citizens, community justice workers, activists and Elders, federal and provincial policy makers and police representatives. Among other priorities related to justice, this gathering was an opportunity to foster dialogue and seek input on an action plan intended to build on tools and partnerships to create and sustain safe and secure communities.

Building on these recommendations and in response to Resolution 01-2012 passed in Toronto, Ontario during the 2012 Annual General Assembly, the AFN worked with the Native Women's Association of Canada to co-host a National Forum on Community Safety and Ending Violence on April 9 and 10, 2013. Over 380 participants attended the Forum, including leaders, community-based justice workers, gov-

ernment officials and families of murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls.

The intent of the Forum was to seek input into the development of a National Action Plan to end violence, containing concrete and tangible actions for all levels of government and building on successful and innovative initiatives. In addition, the Forum featured a number of speakers and participants engaged directly in action planning, providing written recommendations in small groups and on their own.

Overwhelmingly participants at the National Forum wanted to move towards action.

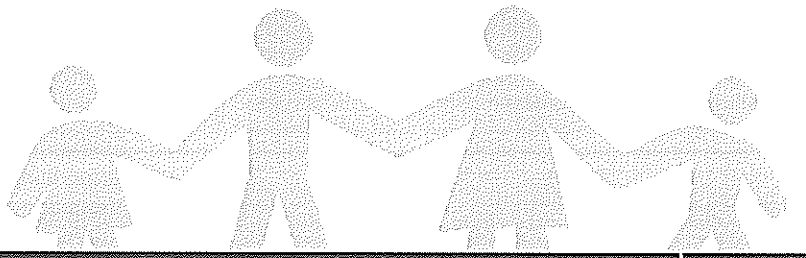
To build on the experiences and insight of participants, the AFN posed a number of questions to guide the development of a strategy. Participants identified a number of critical actions needed to take place within a number of themes, including: addressing structural violence and systemic racism; building strong and healthy communities; cultural connections and resiliency; strengthening partnership and awareness; intergovernmental relationships and coordination; and accountability.

THEMES AND ACTIONS

Priority themes and actions are outlined below. Activities are described at a high-level, to enable jurisdictions, communities, organizations and individuals to design their own tactics or specific initiatives to meet the desired outcomes.

ADDRESSING STRUCTURAL VIOLENCE AND SYSTEMIC RACISM

Indigenous women experience social and economic inequality and institutionalized discrimination through legislation and approaches of institutions, such as schools, child and family services, police, courts and jails. These all leave them more at risk for violence.



AREA OF FOCUS	OUTCOME(S)	ACTIVITY	RESPONSABILITY
LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY CHANGE	Improved quality of life through implementation, protection and enforcement of Treaties and rights of Indigenous peoples	• Implement and fulfill all Treaties on a Treaty-by-Treaty basis.	• Federal and provincial/ territorial governments; First Nation governments
		• Implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) through creating implementation strategies and workplans with clear mandates and timelines.	• Federal and provincial/ territorial governments; First Nation governments
		• Support communities to displace the Indian Act with their own laws.	• Federal government; First Nation governments
		• Strengthen and support community-based solutions and development of legislation.	• Federal and provincial/ territorial governments; First Nation governments
		• Pursue relationship and policy principles that restore the role of Indigenous women and girls in decision-making, policy and strategy development.	• Federal and provincial/ territorial governments; First Nation governments
IMPROVED SUPPORT TO VICTIMS AND FAMILIES	Improved access to justice for victims of violence and their families and procedures that ensure that perpetrators are held to account	• Ensure an effective and responsive justice system which supports justice, restitution, and healing for victims of violence and their families and communities.	• Federal and provincial/ territorial governments; First Nation governments
		• Recognize and support the full implementation of First Nations' jurisdiction over justice systems, institutions and law-making.	
		• Ensure capacity for First Nations to design and deliver program, services and supports aimed at restoring harmony, balance and wellness in communities	
IINSTITUTIONAL CHANGE	Institutions policies, processes, and practices support – rather than disadvantage and marginalize – First Nation citizens	• Enhance supports for First Nation women in mainstream institutions, including direct services and human resources strategies.	• All governments, institutions and civil society actors
		• Launch public education campaign on Indigenous rights that amplifies First Nation women's voices and connects local struggles and builds solidarity.	
		• Training and awareness for service providers and police services on First Nation histories and current realities.	
		• Monitoring and accountability for police services and correctional institutions and their treatment of Indigenous peoples.	

AREA OF FOCUS	OUTCOME(S)	ACTIVITY	RESPONSABILITY
PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND EDUCATION	Greater awareness among the Canadian public of the root causes of violence, including the impacts of colonization and socio-economic inequalities and a commitment to action. Increased, effective, and accurate media coverage of missing and murdered First Nations women cases	• Conduct awareness campaigns to educate the Canadian public on systemic racism and its role in perpetuating the violence experienced by First Nations women • Eliminate common misconceptions of First Nations 'realities' through effective education strategies, such as incorporating First Nations' history and cultural content in the public education system • Launch public education campaign on Indigenous rights that amplifies First Nation women's voice, connects local struggles and builds solidarity.	• Media • First Nation governments • Federal and provincial/ territorial governments; • Grassroots organizations • First Nations communities • NGOs
ATTITUDINAL & BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE / EMPOWERMENT	Improved attitudes and behaviour that act as a protective factor against future violence	• Through cultural values and customs, create activities that empower women and girls who have experienced violence and facilitate and sustain the healing process. • Raise awareness and educate families about violence, what causes it, and how to respond to it. Encourage positive male and female roles models for youth and adults.	• First Nations leadership • Elders • First Nations families
SELF-DETERMINATION, DECOLONIZATION, AND NATION-REBUILDING	Enhanced support and strengthened prevention through culturally appropriate responses that meet needs	• Put in place political arrangements of self-government that facilitate and strengthen self-determination and nation re-building. • Exercise jurisdiction, rights, and law-making powers, based on an inclusive community consultation process, and implement holistic plans for addressing community needs, safety, and ending violence.	• First Nation governments; federal government • First Nation governments
CONNECTION TO THE LAND AND WATER	Improved protection and implementation of Aboriginal title and inherent rights to the land and water	• Strong advocacy efforts to ensure that inherent rights are respected • Raise awareness about the unique and important relationship First Nations have with their land and water. When respected, such relationship is a strong protective factor against violence. • Ensure First Nation access to and control over land and revenues derived from resource extraction to improve the quality of life in First Nation communities.	• Federal and provincial/ territorial governments • First Nations leadership

SUPPORT & CAPACITY – REBUILDING STRONG & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

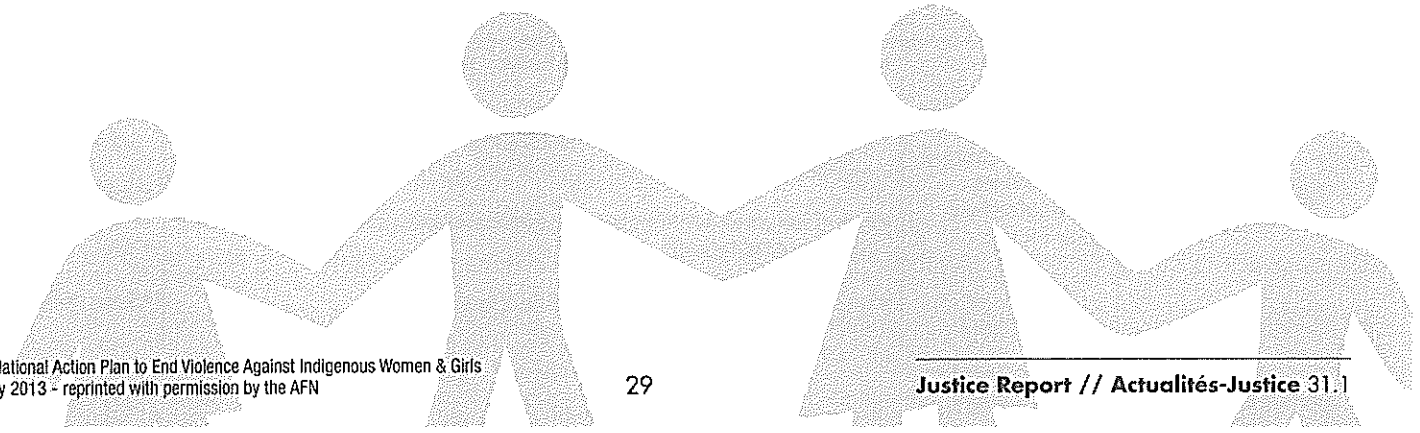
Indigenous Nations and their governing and social systems have been directly attacked through colonial legislation, policies and institutions (such as residential schools, forced relocation and settlement of families and communities, and exclusion of women under the Indian Act). The effects of these attacks continue today as communities make concerted efforts to heal.

As part of healing, Indigenous communities are restoring and reviving their traditional protocols and languages. Strong connections to culture and language have protective factors that improve self-esteem and lead to less risk of committing or being the victim of violence.

AREA OF FOCUS	OUTCOME(S)	ACTIVITY	RESPONSABILITY
COMMUNITY SAFETY, WELL-BEING AND HEALING	Enhanced support and strengthened prevention in First Nation communities and for all First Nation citizens regardless of where they reside. Address substance abuse as a contributing factor to violence.	• Ensure that community members are included in deliberations on how to end violence, for instance, through round tables where community members can dialogue with their leaders • Support community-based and culturally appropriate addictions and healing programs and raise awareness on the harmful effects of substance abuse. • Raise awareness on the damaging impacts of lateral violence and address issues in the community in an open and inclusive way • Support safe and secure communities through appropriate resources for infrastructure and governance, including safe drinking water and housing • Prepare a comprehensive scan and gap analysis of community-based healing supports. • Enhance funding available to healing programs. • Provide opportunities for families of missing and murdered women to spend time together and support each other on their healing journey. • Adopt holistic models of well-being that include spiritual, emotional, mental and physical needs and start from the resilience and strength of First Nation peoples.	• All governments, community agencies

AREA OF FOCUS	OUTCOME(S)	ACTIVITY	RESPONSABILITY
COMMUNITY SAFETY, WELL-BEING AND HEALING (CONTINUED)	Enhanced support and strengthened prevention in First Nation communities and for all First Nation citizens regardless of where they reside. Address substance abuse as a contributing factor to violence.	• Develop violence response teams and protocols in communities with community agencies and working closely with the police. • Increase capacity building to address substance abuse in communities. • Develop and support health promotion strategies that aim to deter young generations from substance abuse. • Increase culturally appropriate resources and supports available to families affected by substance abuse.	• All governments, community agencies
RESOURCES FOR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES	Enhanced support and strengthened prevention through improved availability of and access to appropriate community services	• Provide needs-based, sustainable funding and adequate resources for First Nation women, including core funding for grassroots organizations. • Improve funding for community programs and services and strengthen community-based solutions and culturally appropriate frameworks. • Improve resources for mental, spiritual and emotional well-being and access to cultural teachings and language instruction. • Make more resources available to address mental health issues and addictions in the community. • Provide equitable funding for First Nation child and family services to strengthen prevention and keep children in their home communities. • Fund on-reserve shelters on par with provincial shelters and ensure availability and accessibility of shelter services for every First Nation woman, man and child who is in need of a safe place.	• All governments
DATA COLLECTION/ RESEARCH	Baseline data and ongoing research into the roots, impacts and remedies of violence	• Collect existing data on murdered and missing women and make the national database accessible. • Undertake research to shed light on the root causes of violence against Indigenous women and girls. • Conduct research to determine the resource needs in communities to implement anti-violence programming. • Establish an Indigenous expert advisory committee and clearinghouse function to support the development of community plans and share available information and best practices. • Carry out qualitative research so that stories can help inform a deeper understanding of the issues and ways of addressing them.	• All governments • Law enforcement agencies • Academia • Community-based researchers • First Nation communities • NGOs
ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION AND IMPROVED OUTCOMES	First Nations women and girls have opportunity to actively participate in the economy	• Ensure First Nation access to and control over land and revenues derived from resource extraction to improve the quality of life in First Nation communities. • Support access to education, training and employment opportunities. • Address the deep poverty faced by First Nation women on and off reserve.	
RESPECT & SELF-ESTEEM	Increased and healthy levels of self-esteem and respect within and among First Nations as a protective factor from violence Decreased levels of lateral violence through enhanced understanding of the context in which it takes place and its detrimental effects	• Facilitate activities that engage and support First Nations families to create, enhance and promote respectful environments. • Support community driven initiatives that aim to enhance personal and community well-being. • Encourage male and female healthy role models. • Conduct awareness campaigns that educate community members to recognize lateral violence, its detrimental impacts and how to best respond to it.	• First Nations leadership • Community champions • First Nations families • Elders • Culturally sound service providers
CULTURAL RESILIENCE AND RESURGENCE – UNDERSTANDING TRADITIONAL FAMILY ROLES AND POSITIVE GENDER ROLES	First Nations citizens and communities with strong understanding and practice of cultures, traditions and languages Enhanced support and strengthened prevention through responses that meet needs	• Foster pride and self-esteem in all First Nation children by providing a strong grounding in First Nation identity, culture, language, and relationships and responsibilities to the land • Provide opportunities for First Nation children and youth, especially those who live in urban settings, to connect with their traditional territories, lands and waters • Raise awareness of First Nation issues and educate all children about the impacts of colonization and First Nation cultures, traditions, and territories as a mandatory part of K-12 curricula.	• Individuals, knowledge keepers, community agencies, FN governments • Individuals, knowledge keepers, community agencies, FN governments • Individuals, knowledge keepers, community agencies, FN governments • Provincial/territorial governments

AREA OF FOCUS	OUTCOME(S)	ACTIVITY	RESPONSABILITY
CULTURAL RESILIENCE AND RESURGENCE – UNDERSTANDING TRADITIONAL FAMILY ROLES AND POSITIVE GENDER ROLES (CONTINUED)	First Nations citizens and communities with strong understanding and practice of cultures, traditions and languages Enhanced support and strengthened prevention through responses that meet needs	• Promote traditional First Nation values, ceremonies, and ways of being which encourage peace and positive behaviour, including kindness, sharing, and respect for difference.	• Individuals, knowledge keepers, community agencies, FN governments
		• Create community-based preventive and healing programs based on cultural teachings, including an understanding of gender balance and traditional family roles.	• Community agencies, FN governments
		• Encourage Elders and leaders to instil knowledge and appreciation of egalitarian gender roles, including two-spirited people, and traditional First Nation family values.	• Individuals, knowledge keepers, leadership, community agencies, FN governments
		• Support First Nation men in understanding and restoring their traditional roles and taking on their responsibilities as fathers through culturally appropriate programs and supports.	
SUPPORT TO FAMILIES OF MISSING OR MURDERED PERSONS	Recognition and increased support for families of missing and murdered women and girls	• Coordinated community plans and dedicated resources to support families in crisis events.	• Federal/provincial/ territorial governments
		• Support families of missing and murdered women and girls to hold a National Gathering to ensure their voices inform the actions of leadership in preventing violence.	• First Nations leadership
			• Elders
			• Families of missing and murdered women
FAMILY- AND CHILD-CENTERED APPROACH	Improved outcomes for families and children	• Place children and their safety and well-being at the centre of activities and community plans moving forward, including children's food security, access to safe drinking water, adequate housing, and a healthy natural environment.	• First Nation governments, community agencies
		• Ensure the connection of First Nation children to their families, communities and nations, as well as their culture, language, and values.	• Community agencies, First Nation governments, individuals and families
		• Deliver community-based and culturally appropriate programs to help children recover from experiencing and witnessing violence.	• First Nation governments, community agencies
		• Create child-friendly educational materials, including on the history of First Nations-Canada relations from a First Nation perspective.	• Community agencies
		• Establish mentoring programs for First Nation youth.	• First Nation governments, community agencies
		• Include children and youth in the creation of programming to prevent and stop violence in First Nation communities	• First Nation governments, community agencies
		• Stress the importance of adults acting as positive role models for children in their community and the need to model healthy behaviour, relationships, and attitudes.	• Individuals
		• Focus advocacy efforts on family violence and child welfare.	• First Nation regional and national organizations
		• Establish a support system and ongoing resources to help families of missing and murdered women.	• All governments, community agencies
		• Deliver culturally appropriate programming and make resources available to strengthen healthy and strong families, including parenting programs.	• All governments, community agencies
		• Encourage leadership to act as role models and take responsibility for community well-being and mobilizing support and caring within our communities.	• Leadership



STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS & AWARENESS

Critical gaps remain in how services in different geographic areas and those run by different governments work with each other to prevent and address violence against Indigenous women and girls. Many institutions have a role to play in creating awareness and preventing violence. This must be done in a way that supports community and individual healing and responds to the needs and direction of Indigenous communities and citizens.

AREA OF FOCUS	OUTCOME(S)	ACTIVITY	RESPONSABILITY
IMPROVED POLICING	Improved police response to incidences and reports of violence and missing persons	• Work with Indigenous women and Elders to review policies and procedures with a view towards fostering respectful relations.	• Law enforcement agencies
		• Develop protocols to ensure a more integrated response to missing persons, with strong and immediate cross-jurisdictional coordination.	• Law enforcement agencies, community agencies, First Nation governments
		• Modify access to and protocol for calling "Amber Alerts" to ensure timely response.	• Law enforcement agencies
		• Provide cultural sensitivity and Indigenous awareness training to police officers.	• Law enforcement agencies
		• Strengthen partnerships and communications with communities and families of missing and murdered women.	• Law enforcement agencies, communities
		• Create effective accountability mechanisms and community oversight to address police brutality	• Provincial and federal governments
		• Create adequate funding arrangements for First Nation police services.	• Law enforcement agencies
		• Gather baseline information by changing reporting practices to include ethnicity and create a unified police database.	• Federal government
		• Create a National Missing Person's Office.	• Law enforcement agencies
		• Encourage the recruitment of First Nation women to increase the First Nation representation on police forces.	• Law enforcement agencies
		• Create and implement action plans for police services to address racism and sexism.	• Law enforcement agencies
		• Create harm-reduction and protective strategies for Indigenous women and girls engaged in the sex trade.	• Law enforcement agencies, service organizations, sex trade workers
CROSS-JURISDICTIONAL COMMITMENT & IMPLEMENTATION	Effective, sustainable, coordinated, and equal engagement of First Nations, Federal, Provincial and Territorial governments in planning, developing, implementing and supporting strategies/initiatives that address the root causes and perpetuating factors of violence against First Nations women and girls	• Develop a UNDRIP implementation strategy with the full and effective participation of First Nations leadership and grassroots organizations, as well as adequate support from all levels of government.	• First Nations leadership
		• Identify and implement effective mechanisms that facilitate community input in the development of action plans or strategies aiming to address and prevent violence against First Nations women and girls.	• Federal/provincial/ territorial governments
			• NGOs
			• First Nation citizens
KNOWLEDGE SHARING	Improved knowledge sharing among First Nations which maximize the benefits of successful community initiatives and overall education and awareness efforts	• Develop an information sharing hub for communities to share successful initiatives, and provide mutual support. Such a mechanism can also provide information and resources to educate First Nations on issues of violence and how to best respond to it.	• First Nations leadership
			• Community members
		• Utilize social media to maximize networking and knowledge sharing efforts	• First Nations families
			• Elders
COORDINATED RESPONSE SYSTEM AND PARTNERSHIPS	An effective, prompt, multi-sectoral and coordinated response system is in place	• Develop an inter-jurisdictional response plan that comes in effect once a missing person is reported (immediate response).	• First Nations leadership
		• Create a national missing person's office to coordinate all the activities and disseminate information to families (ongoing response).	• Federal/provincial/ territorial governments
			• Local/provincial police
		• Establish multi-sectoral partnerships to facilitate coordinated responses across provincial and territorial jurisdictions and internationally.	• RCMP
		• Support and facilitate culturally appropriate training for front line workers.	• Service providers

AREA OF FOCUS	OUTCOME(S)	ACTIVITY	RESPONSABILITY
COORDINATED RESPONSE SYSTEM AND PARTNERSHIPS (CONTINUED)	An effective, prompt, multi-sectoral and coordinated response system is in place	• Increase profile, awareness and responses to human trafficking of Indigenous women and girls. • Create one-stop service windows and coordinate resources more effectively	• First Nations leadership • Federal/provincial/ territorial governments • Local/provincial police • RCMP • Service providers
ENSURING COORDINATION AND SUPPORT TO FIRST NATION CITIZENS IN URBAN, REMOTE AND NORTHERN AREAS	Improved outcomes and reduction in all forms of violence experienced by First Nation citizens with specialized responses to those living in urban settings, remote areas and the North	• Develop an urban strategy that recognizes the unique needs of First Nation citizens and their increased vulnerability to violence. • Increase support for friendship centres. • Ensure equal access to justice and policing for First Nations citizens living in rural and remote areas.	• Federal/provincial/ territorial governments • Municipal governments • First Nations leadership • Friendship Centres • First Nations youth
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS	Improved coordination, prevention and response measures to violence in the context of emergency preparedness and management	• Proactive planning and emergency funding to prevent violence in emergencies. • Ensure community access to an emergency fund in case a crisis arises.	• Federal/provincial/ territorial governments • First Nations leadership • Elders • Service providers • Emergency Relief teams • NGOs

ACCOUNTABILITY

A terrible tolerance for violence against and among Indigenous people has persisted in Canada for too long. Real accountability is needed from governments, institutions and individuals to stop this violence, take responsibility for actions needed to address past violence, and work towards preventing it in the future.

AREA OF FOCUS	OUTCOME(S)	ACTIVITY	RESPONSABILITY
NATIONAL INQUIRY	Cross-sectoral effort to document violence against Indigenous women and girls and make recommendations to end it	• Establish a National Inquiry to investigate the epidemic of murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls in Canada and to propose how to move forward based on the direction from the families of missing and murdered women.	• Federal government
FIRST NATIONS DIALOGUE, COLLABORATION & UNIFIED VOICE	Enhanced dialogue and cohesion among First Nations peoples to work in unanimity to address the root causes and perpetuating factors of violence against First Nations women and girls	• Identify mechanisms to facilitate dialogue and strategy planning and implementation among First Nations. • Engage in public activities that strengthen advocacy efforts and raise awareness about the immediate need to address the unacceptable levels of violence against First Nations women and girls.	• First Nations leadership • Elders • Youth • Grassroots organizations
FIRST NATIONS LEADERSHIP RESPONSIBILITY & ACCOUNTABILITY	Effective and active First Nations leadership engagement and accountability	• Facilitate dialogue between leadership and community members to ensure that high-level decisions are informed by community's needs. • Develop mechanisms to hold leadership accountable for their role in addressing violence against First Nations women and girls. • In cases in which the leadership and/ or Band Council members may be implicated, make available appropriate supports and resources to victims and their families, as well as an impartial recourse mechanism to report and address such incidents. • Affirm the personal commitment of leaders to live violence-free and make the safety of all citizens a priority in their nations.	• First Nations leadership • Elders • Youth • Grassroots organizations

IMPLEMENTATION

First Nation citizens and communities will only fully realize their rights once clear action has been taken to ensure they are safe from violence.

All governments need to commit to action and establish mechanisms to measure progress and ensure accountability.

A number of existing forums could be used to ensure progress, including the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Ministers of Justice and Public Safety and the Aboriginal Affairs Ministers and National Aboriginal Leaders working group.

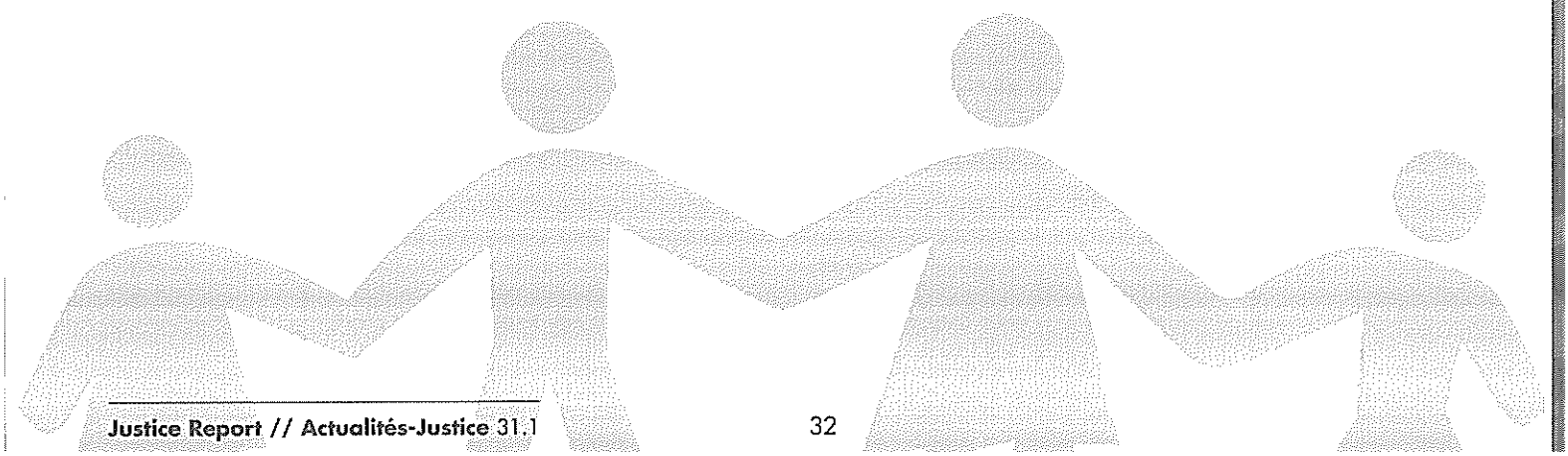
Additional mechanisms should be created, such as a national working group with corresponding regional input, to ensure ongoing First Nations input into achievement of the National Action Plan.

Structural change and making reparations for centuries of colonization and its impacts takes time. However, there are a number of recommendations and areas of action from the previous list that can be done immediately to start to create change today:

- Investment in front-line services and shelters on-reserve and in rural areas so that every First Nations woman and girl experiencing violence has access to immediate support.
- Coordinated strategy inclusive of service providers and First Nations governments to prevent and address violence against Indigenous women and girls in urban centres.
- Develop compulsory protocols between and among police services to share information and immediately respond to and appropriately investigate reports of missing persons by Indigenous families.
- Create a resource centre/hub for First Nation communities of prevention, awareness and response materials.
- Support a National Gathering led by and for the families of murdered and missing Indigenous women.
- Call a National Public Commission of Inquiry into Violence Against Indigenous Women and Girls, including those that have disappeared or have been murdered.
- Provide Local Community Action Grants to support the development of Community Action Plans & Emergency Management Teams in every First Nation community so they are equipped to intervene in incidences of violence.
- Compel police services to work together to produce verifiable numbers on incidences of violence against Indigenous women and girls, so that progress can be measured.
- Provide sustainable, adequate resources to First Nations Police Services.
- Create a National public awareness and prevention campaign on violence against Indigenous women and girls.

A National Action Plan to End Violence Against Indigenous Women & Girls
July 2013 - reprinted with permission by the AFN

CE DOCUMENT EST DISPONIBLE EN FRANÇAIS, VEUILLEZ VISITER LE SITE INTERNET DE L'ASSEMBLÉE DES PREMIÈRES NATIONS: www.afn.ca/fr



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1. Must be a post secondary student completing an undergraduate degree in a social science program with a focus on criminal justice
2. Must be a student in good academic standing and enrolled in a Canadian University/College

HOW TO APPLY

A. Submit a 250-word summary that describes how your community involvement and studies address criminal justice issues in your community

B. Provide a transcript from your current post-secondary institution (photocopy acceptable)

C. Provide your resume and contact information for 2 reference institutions (1 academic and 1 community)

Submit application by letter, fax or email to:
Canadian Criminal Justice Association
320 Parkdale Avenue, Suite 101, Ottawa, ON K1Y 4X9
ccja-acjp@rogers.com Fax: 613-725-3720

DEADLINE: JULY 31, 2016

ADMISSIBILITÉ

1. Doit être un étudiant ou une étudiante de niveau postsecondaire, inscrit(e) à un diplôme de 1er cycle en sciences sociales, mettant l'accent sur la justice pénale
2. Doit être un étudiant ou une étudiante en règle, inscrit(e) dans un collège canadien ou une université canadienne

MODALITÉS DE DEMANDE

A. Présenter un sommaire de 250 mots décrivant comment votre implication communautaire et vos études contribuent à améliorer les enjeux de justice pénale dans votre collectivité

B. Présenter un relevé de notes de votre établissement postsecondaire actuel (une photocopie peut convenir)

C. Fournir votre *curriculum vitae* et les coordonnées de deux références (1 universitaire et 1 communautaire)

Soumettre votre demande par courrier, télécopieur ou courriel à :
Association canadienne de justice pénale
320, avenue Parkdale, suite 101, Ottawa (Ontario) K1Y 4X9
ccja-acjp@rogers.com Télécopieur : (613) 725-3720

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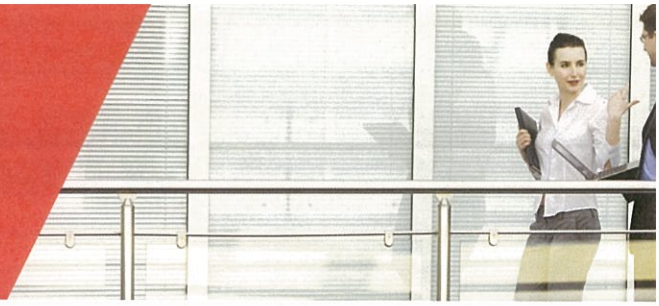

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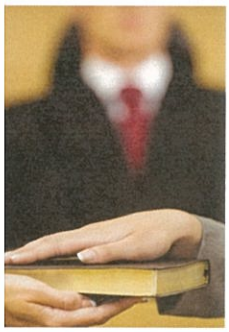

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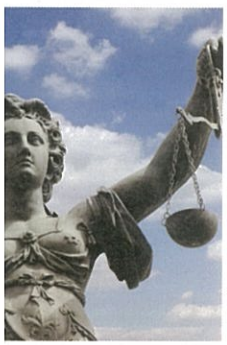

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May 27, 2016 (Online Replay)

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By McMaster University and St. Joseph Program and Mental Health and Addiction Program

PLACE//ENDROIT * Sheraton Hotel, Hamilton, Ontario

INFORMATION * Josie Cosco (905.522.1155 ext. 35415) or jcosco@stjoes.ca

MAY 15-18 MAI 2016

APAI 2016 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PAROLE/RELEASE
CONFÉRENCE INTERNATIONALE SUR LA LIBÉRATION CONDITIONNELLE

THEME/THÈME * The Future of Parole: Waves of Change, Oceans of Opportunities / L'avenir de la libération conditionnelle : vagues de changement, océans

PLACE//ENDROIT * The Shores, Resort & Spa Hotel, Daytona Beach, Florida, U.S.A.

INFORMATION * www.apaintl.org

JUNE 17 JUIN, 2016

4th ANNUAL JUSTICE, CRIME, AND DEVIANCE: REGIONAL GRADUATE RESEARCH AND NETWORKING CONFERENCE

PLACE//ENDROIT * Wilfrid Laurier University, Brantford

INFORMATION * www.facebook.com/JCDConference/ & twitter.com/JDCConference

JUNE 27 JUIN JULY 15 JUILLET 2016

RACIAL DEMOCRACY, CRIME AND JUSTICE NETWORK CRIME & JUSTICE SUMMER RESEARCH INSTITUTE: BROADENING PARTICIPATION & PERSPECTIVES

PLACE//ENDROIT * Rutgers University, School of Criminal Justice

INFORMATION * (http://cjrc.osu.edu/sri). Send all requested application materials electronically to Maddy Novich, RDCJN Program Manager, at rdcjn@newark.rutgers.edu

SEPTEMBER 21-24 SEPTEMBRE 2016

16th ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGY

PLACE//ENDROIT * Muenster, Germany

INFORMATION * www.esc-eurocrim.org/conferences.shtml

OCTOBER 2-5 OCTOBRE 2016

3RD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON LAW ENFORCEMENT & PUBLIC HEALTH LEPH 2016 - Call for abstracts opens January 1, 2016 / Early bird registrations close January 31, 2016.

PLACE//ENDROIT * Amsterdam, The Netherlands

INFORMATION * www.leph2016.com

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